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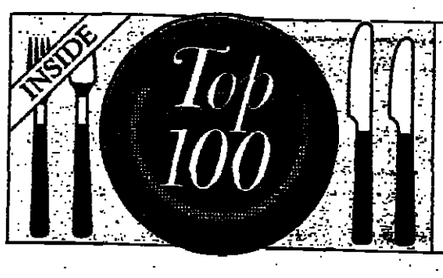

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Full 4-day guide to the holiday programmes

THE UNIVERSITY OF JORDAN

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No 63,585

THE TIMES

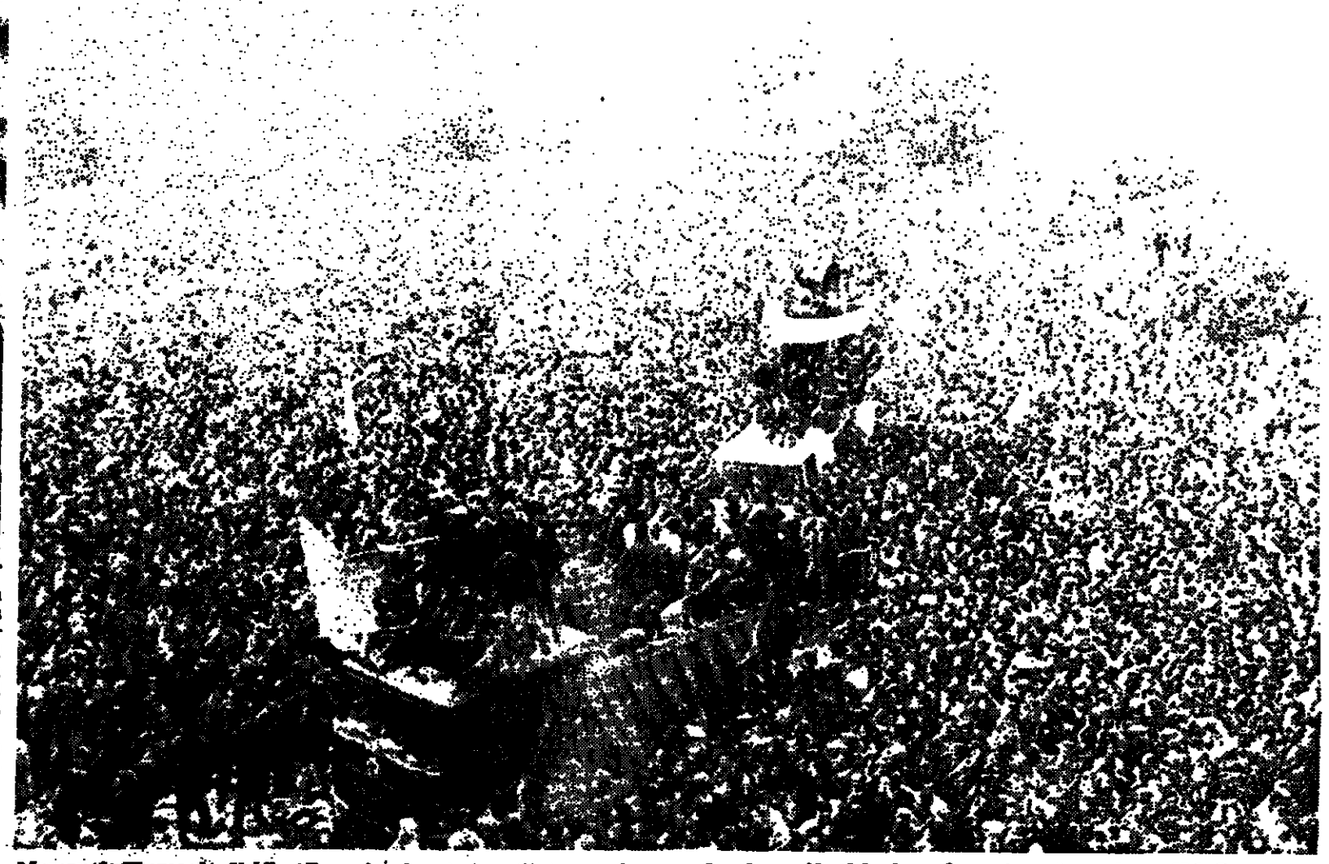
30p

SATURDAY DECEMBER 23 1989

'Hundreds die' after Romanian dictator is toppled and held

Ceausescu's troops hit back

Fallen dictators: President Ceausescu and his wife Elena during a visit to Moscow last year.



Mass revolt: Thousands of jubilant Romanians jam Bucharest's Republic Square, before the presidential palace, after yesterday's overthrow of Mr Ceausescu.

Hundreds of people were reported to have been killed in Bucharest last night after pro-Ceausescu forces launched a counter-attack in the wake of the overthrow of Romania's hard-line communist leader.

"All hell has broken loose. The old guard is fighting the new people inside and outside the Communist Party Central Committee building," a Polish trade official reported. "The former royal palace is on fire."

From Dessa Trevisan in Vatin on the Yugoslav-Romanian border

The television station had earlier reported that pro-Ceausescu forces were heading for the building and appealed to citizens to form a human wall to repel them. Forces loyal to the deposed leader were also said to be heading towards Bucharest airport, Bucharest radio reported.

The retaliation came hours after a whirlwind revolution brought to an end the communist leader's 24-year rule. A committee called Front of National Salvation, headed by the former Foreign Minister, Mr Corneliu Manescu, took power, and Mr Ceausescu was under arrest, having earlier escaped his captors.

President Ceausescu's resistance to the massive protests sweeping his country finally crumbled yesterday morning as demonstrators surged through the streets of Bucharest.

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Communist authorities imposed a state of emergency and said the defence minister, Vasile Milea, had committed suicide after being accused of being a traitor. Ceausescu tried to speak to the crowd in Bucharest's Republic Square, but was shouted down with cries of "Death", "Death".

Defeated, the hard-line communist leader fled from the roof of party headquarters by helicopter. Unable to leave the country from Bucharest's military airport, he headed north, only to be arrested in the town of Tirgoviste, 45 miles away.

Ceausescu's fall was announced by an unidentified speaker who blurted out on Bucharest Radio: "Brothers, thanks to God we are finally in the TV studio. We've won. Ceausescu has fallen."

People danced in the streets of Bucharest where less than 24 hours earlier Ceausescu's troops and police ran over demonstrators with armoured vehicles, sprayed them with automatic weapon fire and blasted them with rockets from helicopters.

The squares rang to the sounds of cheering, and pictures of 71-year-old Ceausescu were torn to pieces and burned. Protesters — waving national flags from which the communist symbol had been cut out — clambered over tanks and embraced troops. Members of the security forces threw down their guns. The Soviet news agency, Tass, said: "Behind the wheels of the tanks are smiling soldiers."

Demonstrators seized the studios of Romanian radio and television to broadcast to the nation. "Brother Romanians," said a trembling voice, "We came here to tell you that the dictator has fallen. The country has finally got rid of those who robbed it for many years."

"We are carrying the first free broadcast on Romanian radio in 40 years. This was a revolution of children and youth. The dictator has been overthrown.

"The country is free. We have to take our fate into our hands. We have to remove those who stole and murdered, but we must judge them first.

"We request everybody not to take the law into their own hands. We do not want any more bloodshed. Keep calm.

"We have to rebuild the country, not destroy it. We want to become a decent, honest and open country. We will be the fairest country in the world.

"Let there finally be peace in our country as well."

The military commander of the Bucharest garrison called upon all army units to return to the barracks and not shoot on the people. "The army is on the side of the people," he said, adding that the army had prevented a new bloodbath in Timisoara where the uprising against the regime began a week ago and where the number of dead is yet to be disclosed.

Colonel General Nicolae Militaru apologized to the Romanian people for the slaughter of the past few days.

Another speaker said: "The world is now looking on us and we must not do anything to compromise the freedom we have just won after 40 years of darkness and 25 of Ceaucescu tyranny."

Romanian television broadcast live the events of the day, but went off air just after reporting that pro-Ceausescu forces were surrounding the building. An earlier broadcast had spoken of a electricity shortage, which might have explained the curtailed transmission.

The overthrow of Ceausescu was welcomed across the world. Mrs Margaret Thatcher hailed the people of Romania as real heroes who had taken liberty for themselves; and the White House spokesman, Mr Marlin Fitzwater, said: "Today, a terrible burden of dictatorial rule appears to have been lifted from Romania." The European Community pledged an immediate package of aid.

Former King Michael of Romania earlier that he was ready to end his 44 years of exile and return home, "not to sit on the throne, but to serve".

New leader: Mr Corneliu Manescu, who declared himself as Romanian President, appealing on TV for calm.

Massacre city celebrates

From Peter Law, Timisoara

The courage and sacrifice of the people of Timisoara was rewarded last night as thousands of students and families took to the streets to celebrate the overthrow of Mr Nicolae Ceausescu.

The city where more than 4,000 people have been massacred in the past few days last night appeared to be under the control of student leaders who claimed they had the backing of the Army.

Shortly before 6pm jubilant crowds were filling the streets.

They carried the red, blue and yellow Romanian flag with the Communist Party emblem ripped from the centre. Led by a convoy of hooting cars, men, women and children made their way from every corner of town to a mass demonstration in the centre to hear speeches by the new leaders who had taken control in the name of the strike committee for action of the Democratic Front of Romania.

Students who had formed themselves into a militia were checking cars driving in the city to make sure no one was carrying guns.

● **WASHINGTON:** Dozens of protesters demanded that the Romanian Embassy be turned over to them yesterday after the collapse of the Ceausescu Government.

CHRISTMAS with THE TIMES

Your Boxing Day paper

● *The Times* will be the only broadsheet newspaper published on Boxing Day. It will bring you news, features, sport and the chance to win five cases of champagne in our quiz of the year; plus where to find the best fashion bargains in the sales.

● Make sure of getting a copy by placing an order with your newsagent today, using the coupon on page 3

In today's 48-page Times

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Two held as IRA arms are seized

By Quentin Cowdry, Home Affairs Correspondent

Police believe they may have made an important breakthrough against the IRA's active service units on mainland Britain after a seven-week surveillance operation which led to two men being arrested on Thursday night.

The men were arrested by armed police as they approached a hidden arms cache on the South Wales coast which detectives had been watching since November 3.

Detectives say the men are not known terrorist suspects but hope the arrests will provide vital clues in the hunt for those responsible for attacks on the mainland over the past 18 months. These include the bombing in September of the Royal Marines' barracks at Deal, Kent, which killed 10 soldiers. The cache, buried near the coastal path at Newgale, Dyfed, comprised 100lb of Semtex, handguns and automatic rifles, one of the biggest IRA armouries found on the mainland.

Yesterday's announcement by New Scotland Yard and Dyfed Powys Police followed an 11-day news blackout by the media which agreed not to publicize details of the find to increase the chances of detectives making arrests.

The suspects, aged between 25 and 30, were last night being held at Paddington Green Station, central London, under the Prevention of Terrorism Act.

Full reports 3

Inquiry on Scots cable-car fall

By Kerry Gill

An investigation was launched last night into how a ski gondola, less than a week old, came off its line and plunged 20ft to the ground on the slopes of Aonach Mor near Fort William.

Although the gondola was empty, nine people in three other cable cars were trapped in darkness for two hours before being rescued.

Thirty-eight people were stranded for 11 hours in the Snowgoose restaurant reached by the 80-car gondola system, part of the new £8.5 million ski resort development in the Ben Nevis range.

The stricken gondola is believed to have been knocked off the line by a sudden gust of wind just before it reached the cable-car station at the top of the mile-and-a-quarter-long system.

No one was injured, but it is clear that the incident could have been disastrous if the damaged gondola had been occupied. The system, which cost £3.2 million, was built by the Austrian company Doppelmayr and was opened to the public on Tuesday.

The resort developer, the Nevis Range Development Company, stopped the lift when the car came off. A spokesman said: "A gondola came off a rail as it was about to enter the top station. It meant that people in the other gondolas and in the restaurant were stranded."

Holiday exodus 4

The HEIGHTS of emotion experienced on finding a BOTTLE of HINE COGNAC...

...can only be MATCHED by the AGONY of immediately losing IT.

On taking charge of a valued object even the calmest among us can be affected by an attack of nerves.

To prevent a disaster occurring upon purchasing a bottle of Hine cognac, for example, attempt to banish your nervousness by dismissing from your mind all thoughts of its rarity, its value, its delicious taste, its smoothness, and its divine bouquet.

Only then will a calm descend that will permit you to carry your precious cargo safely home.

HINE

After all—just how much fine COGNAC can ONE family make?

For following your own star.

For wrapping up the best deals.

For the advent of success.

For listening to the wise men.

For the icing on the cake.

For understanding that the best gifts aren't always in small packages.

For appreciating the traditional values.

For working through last Christmas.

For getting into the Spirit, this Christmas.

For the years of giving everything.

For getting to the top of the tree.

For knowing when it isn't Christmas.

For your three ships which have just come in.

For skating on thin ice.

For the other 364 days of the year.

For getting out of Frankincense and into Myrrh.

For boxing clever.

For being snowed under with orders.

For the Ghost of Christmas past.

For demanding excellence in everything you do.

ROLLS ROYCE

Rolls-Royce Motor Cars Limited
A Vickers Company

Charities threaten boycott over anti-Aids restrictions

By Thomson Prentice
Science Correspondent

The World Health Organization (WHO) is seeking international support to persuade the American government to scrap entry restrictions on foreign visitors to the US who have Aids or HIV infection.

The move is central to a new WHO campaign attacking discrimination against sufferers of the disease and carriers of the human immunodeficiency virus.

Hundreds of delegates, many of them British, are threatening to boycott the world's biggest conference on Aids, to be held in San Francisco next June, because of US laws requiring HIV carriers to seek consent to enter the country.

If a waiver is given, a visa is granted for only 30 days and the person's passport is marked and a record kept by the US authorities.

The British Red Cross, the Haemophilia Society, the Terrence Higgins Trust, Oxfam, Christian Aid, the Save The Children Fund and other charities that run Aids-related projects in developing countries, have said that they will withdraw from the conference unless the restrictions are lifted.

Last month, the League of Red Cross Societies, based in Geneva, said that it was pulling out of the conference on the same grounds. The league links 148 national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies throughout the world.

It said that the US policy conflicted with Red Cross principles of humanitarian support for Aids sufferers and prevention of discrimination against them.

Dr Jonathan Mann, director of the WHO Aids programme, said yesterday: "We very much want changes by the US government on this issue.

"Its restrictions are counter-productive and threaten to jeopardize a major conference designed to fight this disease more successfully.

"As an important member of the international community, the US has to consider very carefully the effects of its policies. We ask America and other countries which have discriminatory laws to review them urgently.

"Aids is going to be a much bigger problem in the 1990s than it has been in the 1980s and it is vital that we remove barriers to effective action."

Dr Mann said that more than 35 countries had imposed entry restrictions on foreign visitors, tourists or students. Compulsory screening of people for HIV had been attempted in the Soviet Union, Cuba, Bulgaria and Iraq.

The detention or isolation of sufferers had been introduced in China, South Africa and South Korea, but no country using coercion or punitive approaches to Aids had succeeded in preventing the spread of the disease.

In contrast, non-discriminatory Aids programmes in Britain, The Netherlands and Kenya had changed the behaviour of, respectively, homosexual men, intravenous drug abusers and prostitutes.

"Britain has been one of the leading countries in respecting human rights and the dignity of the individual with Aids or HIV," he said.

Mr Martin Whiteside, the chairman of the UK Non-Governmental Aids Consortium, which represents the British charities threatening to boycott the San Francisco conference, said: "Organizations worldwide have condemned the American rules as discriminiatory and counter-productive.

"International travel restrictions do nothing to prevent the spread of HIV, and the US has more Aids cases than any other country."

CHRISTMAS with THE TIMES

Quiz of the year

● In *The Times* on Boxing Day there are five cases of champagne to be won in *The Times* quiz of the year

Know what I mean?

● Frank Bruno is playing a different sort of game this Christmas — as the genie in *Aladdin*. Brian James watches him hamming it up

Plus

● Bargain-hunters are under starter's orders for the winter sales. On the Fashion page we preview the best offers

● The Eighties have been a decade of change for women in sport. Simon Barnes begins a four-part series examining their influence

Police arrest two after secret coastal arms find

By Quentin Cowdry, Stewart Tendler and Craig Seton

Police have arrested two men after the discovery of a huge cache of the explosive Semtex, guns and ammunition on a remote part of the south Wales coast led to a big undercover surveillance operation.

Members of the anti-terrorist squad had kept watch on the cache near a cliff-top footpath at Newgale, Dyfed, for seven weeks. The operation was kept secret with the aid of a news black-out.

The two men, aged between 25 and 30, were arrested late on Thursday night in the vicinity of the arms dump, which had been discovered after a tip-off. A single shot was fired by a police officer but no one was hurt.

The men were taken from Wales to London yesterday and are being held in the fortified police station at Paddington Green under the Prevention of Terrorism Act.

Police believe their operation might have prevented an IRA Christmas bombing campaign, but last night they were refusing to speculate on whether the arms cache might be linked to a series of terrorist attacks in Britain over the past 18 months, including the bombing in September which killed 10 bandsmen at the Royal Marines barracks in Deal, Kent.

The explosives and weapons — the fifth armoury to have been discovered on the mainland in just over a year and one of the largest of its kind — were probably smuggled over the Irish Sea by a small boat.

Found on November 3 buried in a trench close to the coast path at Newgale, Pembrokeshire, it was kept under surveillance by armed police using night binoculars and sophisticated eavesdropping equipment.

Some local residents were taken into confidence by the police to avoid arousing suspicions and "blowing" the operation, codenamed Pebble, and, on December 11, outline details of the operation were released to the media on the understanding that they observed a news blackout. That was removed at 1.30pm yesterday. Commander George Churchill-Coleman, head of Scotland Yard's Anti-Terrorist Branch, said: "It is all speculation, but this could have been used for a Christmas bombing campaign. We must still be vigilant and not complacent."

Mr Ray White, Chief Constable of Dyfed Powys Police, said surveillance had been maintained round-the-clock despite appalling weather, including sub-zero temperatures and severe storms. He said the police officers concerned had shown commendable professionalism.

The explosives, of the type the IRA now almost use exclusively, had been enough to make several bombs of the size used in terrorist attacks on the mainland this year.

Police found the cache as a result of a tip-off. It is understood it had only been buried a short time before detectives uncovered it.

Detectives are also examining the possibility of a link between the cache and the shotgun murders of the Oxfordshire holidaymakers whose bodies were found in undergrowth a few miles along the same path near Little Haven in July. Local residents, however, favour the theory that the couple stumbled across a gang of smugglers.

The bodies of Mr Peter Dixon, aged 51, and his wife Gwenda, 52, were found down a wooded hillside above cliffs overlooked by the coastal path less than 15 miles from the site of the cache. Mr and Mrs Dixon, from Witney, Oxfordshire, had been shot several times with a shotgun.

Dyfed-Powys police believed they must have stumbled upon someone acting suspiciously on or near the coast path and were coldbloodedly killed.

Dyfed-Powys police had kept an open mind about the motive for the killing of the Dixons on the isolated footpath overlooking St Brides Bay.

However they considered it possible that they had disturbed smugglers bringing something ashore from a boat moored beneath the cliffs.

Festive cheer spreads around the world

STEPHEN MARKESON

On the steps of a church, Father Christmas sits surrounded by happy children. A familiar sight at this time of year perhaps, but not where this picture was taken. On Monday, for the first time in 50 years, the Baltic republic of Estonia will celebrate Christmas officially rather than in secret. It was annexed by Stalin in 1940 and the celebration of Christian festivals forbidden. December 25 was declared a working day. However, this year, in an attempt to cool nationalist unrest, Moscow has announced that in future December 25 will be an official holiday for Estonia's mainly Christian population.

PORTFOLIO PLATINUM

There were no valid claims for yesterday's £2,000 Portfolio Platinum prize. The competition will resume after Christmas on Wednesday December 27, with the prize doubled to £4,000.

Jury's secret trip

Break to walk lonely dog

By Robin Young

A jury at the Central Criminal Court was taken on a secret coach tour so that one of its number could take his dog for a walk, it emerged in court yesterday.

Judge Laughland, QC, gave orders for the excursion after receiving a note from the foreman of the jury in a long-running trial of four men accused of attempted robbery, informing him that one of the jury was seriously worried about his pet Alsatian.

The juryman's concern had deepened when he learnt that the jury, which retired to consider verdicts on Wednesday in a trial which has been continuing since October 17, would have to stay in a hotel for a second night.

The rules are that in criminal cases members of a jury, once retired, must stay together until they have reached their verdict. The Alsatian, a three-year-old called Mitch, had been left in a flat in Manor Park, east London, with more than enough food and water to last him for Wednesday, but his owner feared that the animal might be becoming hungry and distraught in his prolonged absence.

Judge Laughland, after consulting lawyers in the trial, ordered that the jury's coach should be diverted on its way

● Everyday difficulties have to be solved somehow ●

to the hotel on Thursday night so that the pet-owner could visit his dog, replenish his dinner plate, and take him for a walk, escorted by a court usher.

The other seven men and four women on the jury remained on the coach, guarded by a second usher.

A court official said: "The juryman lives alone and he was obviously very worried. Jurors are human and their everyday difficulties have to be solved somehow. Sending 12 off to take a dog for a walk does seem to be unprecedented, although I remember some years ago a policeman being sent to a woman juror's house to feed her goldfish."

The jury returned its verdict yesterday afternoon, and was discharged.

Afterwards Mitch's 49-year-old owner, before hurrying home to be reunited with his pet, said that he had been surprised at the judge's willingness to allow him to make the dog comfortable for the night. He said he had been particularly concerned because Mitch was not used to being left for hours on his own. "Like most Alsatians Mitch is a one-man dog", he said. "My girl friend would have been willing to look after him, but I would not ask her to go into the house with Mitch alone."

BA launches £14m advertising drive

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

British Airways is to spend more than £14 million on a television commercial to be shown in 38 countries to try to convince viewers that it is still the world's favourite airline.

The 90-second advertisement by Saatchi & Saatchi, produced at a cost of £1 million, will first be shown on British television tomorrow night and will later appear on screens from Tokyo to Toronto.

The team that made the advertisement recruited more than 3,000 schoolchildren in Utah, United States, to form them into a moving collage of a face, which turns into a map of the earth.

Interspersed are scenes of people of many nationalities meeting each other, apparently after flights with British Airways, which, the advertisement says, brings 24 million people together every year.

The airline, which eight years ago ran its hugely successful "Manhattan" advertisement, says that the new promotion will reach more than 600 million people over the next 12 months.

The idea was to make a highly visual advertisement that could be used throughout the world simply by changing the voice-over and the national flags in the background.

The advertisement represents about one day's takings from BA passengers, and BA claims that it cost half as much as making specific advertisements for each country.

Opera buffs may be disappointed that the music from Delibes' *Lakme* which proved very popular in earlier television commercials has received a disco beat, designed, BA says, to underline the excitement of modern-day air travel.

What BA now wants to know is whether it will put more seats on seats.

Heathrow flights, page 5

Helicopter door fault caused nine deaths

Nine Royal Navy sailors died because of a weak mechanism in the cabin door of their Lynx helicopter, an inquest heard yesterday. It crashed into the bush near Mombasa, Kenya, last May during a routine sortie from the frigate HMS Brilliant which had been in the Armilla Patrol in the Gulf.

Yesterday, Lieutenant-Commander Paul Barton, head of the Navy's Aircraft Investigation Unit, said inquiries showed that the door had been opened in flight to provide ventilation. But it became detached from the runners and flew off, sending parts into the rear rotor blade and causing the helicopter to spin 500ft to the ground.

The lieutenant-commander said a modification had been built into the Navy's 120 Lynxes to prevent such accidents, and it was forbidden to open doors in flight.

Mr John Elgar, the Wiltshire coroner, who held the inquest at Salisbury because the bodies were flown to an air base in the county, said: "One hopes that the recommended modification to the door of the Lynx helicopter will prevent a similar accident occurring again."

He recorded verdicts of accidental death on the nine people. They were: Leading Seaman Colin Roy, aged 26, of Newquay, Cornwall; Leading Regulator Philip Stevenson, aged 33, of Crown Hill, Plymouth; Lieutenant-Commander Christopher Fessey, aged 36, of Winterbourne Abbas, Dorset; Chief Communications Yeoman Mark Potter, aged 33, of Cowplain, Portsmouth; Lieutenant Jonathan Williams, aged 24, of Southsea, Hampshire; Able Seaman John Savage, aged 21, of Bury, Greater Manchester; Chief Petty Officer Simon Banks-Popple, aged 29, of Plympton, Devon; Chief Petty Officer Colin Simpson, aged 26, of Ivybridge, Devon; and Chief Petty Officer M.E. Artificer Paul James, aged 36, of Plymouth, Devon.

A village 'sworn to to secrecy'

By Craig Seton

Villagers in the tiny community of Newgale on the Pembrokeshire coast were praised yesterday for keeping silent about the undercover surveillance operation by an anti-terrorist unit and police which led to the seizure of the IRA arms cache.

The villagers, recovering from last week's battering by gales, were abuzz yesterday with talk about how many of them knew of the find on cliffs half a mile away and had been sworn to secrecy by police in case any one who returned to take it away was alerted.

Mr Ray White, Chief Constable of Dyfed-Powys, said yesterday: "We are grateful to members of the public whom, I am sure, did realize something unusual was happening, but they have been of considerable assistance in not letting it be known."

Mr David Westmore, 45, landlord of the scattered community's only public house, said yesterday: "It was the best kept secret of all time ... I heard rumours several weeks ago and that some people had been sworn to secrecy by the police."

Mr Desmond Codd, a local councillor, said: "Let us hope that this has averted a tragedy for somebody else over Christmas."

Mr George Davies, of Newgale Farm, said: "It is a bit shocking that terrorists have been in the village. I would have expected drug smugglers, but not bombers."

Find marks police success after year of IRA bombings

By Our Home Affairs Correspondent

For Britain's police, particularly Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist branch, the seizure of the explosives will help to soften the bitter disappointment of a year in which the IRA has launched a series of murderously successful strikes against soft targets in Britain and West Germany.

Almost 12 months ago detectives came tantalizingly close to knocking out one of several republican cells operating in Britain when two terrorists fled from a south London flat minutes before police arrived, leaving a huge arms cache including 150 lbs of Semtex explosive.

When two smaller caches were found in the next few months the security services' worst fears were confirmed: The IRA was planning a sustained mainland campaign to mark the twentieth anniversary of troops being sent in.

But the terrorists' trail went cold and intead of enjoying a victory detectives suffered a humiliating blow when, in September, a barracks in Deal, Kent, was bombed, killing 10 members of the Royal Marines School of Music in the worst mainland IRA atrocity for seven years. IRA attacks have also claimed the lives this year of a soldier, aged 31, and two service wives, all killed in West Germany, while last month an army sergeant had his legs blown off in a car-bomb explosion in Colchester, Essex.

The toll would have been higher had not terrorists bungled an attack on Lieutenant-General Sir David Ramsbotham, commander of the UK Field Army a few weeks ago. A car bomb placed outside his west London home fell into a gutter and was spotted by a passer-by.

The two suspected mainland-based terrorists identified by detectives are Patrick Sheeny, aged 28, a building worker, and John Conaty, who, police suspect, is an explosives and bomb-making expert.

They are believed, at the very least, to have been involved in the Mill Hill barracks attack in north London 13 months ago in which one soldier was killed and nine injured, and in the botched strike against Tern Hill barracks, Shropshire, in Feburary which was foiled by an alert sentry.

● Requests by police for a press and broadcasting black-out are relatively infrequent (John Young wrotes).

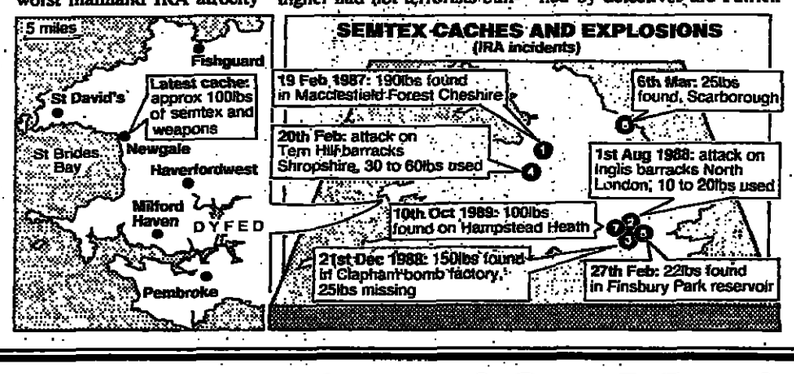
"The reason is obvious. We don't want to devalue the currency," a police official said yesterday. A Scotland Yard press officer said that in the last 10 years he thought there had probably been less than 10. So long as they were used sparingly the media took them seriously. The most obvious reason for such a request is when a life is at risk, as in a kidnapping.

In November 1975 when an 18-year-old Greek Cypriot girl in London was safely returned to her family after newspapers, radio and television had agreed to keep silent about it.

In 1981 an the daughter of Saudi Arabian diplomat was rescued by police from a gang which had demanded a £150,000 ransom.

The press were told of the kidnap but again agreed not to report it.

Other occasions when a blackout is requested are when, as in this instance, the police make a find but wish to continue surveillance in order to apprehend those responsible, or when there is a risk of arousing public alarm.



The trials and tribulations of Our Man in Florence

By Andrew McEwen

Her Majesty's Consul in Florence was not amused to receive a call late at night from a British woman living in the town whose cat had climbed on to the roof of her house and was refusing to come down. Would the Consul please Do Something?

The reply is not recorded in the annual review of consular work, published today, but was probably not the appropriate retort: "What do you want me to do: Wave an Official Protest at it?"

Mr Timothy Sainsbury, Under-Secretary of State, said it would have been a polite but firm refusal. A consul is neither an RSPCA officer nor a fireman, and ladders are not standard issue. Almost 30 million Britons went abroad this year, with many others taking residence overseas, yet deep confusion persisted over what services they should expect from consular staff. Mr Sainsbury said far too many people seemed to regard a consul as another kind of travel agent.

One of the strangest requests arose from a bizarre form of tourism in Romania based on Dracula stories. "Consular staff were called upon to assist a Briton when other passengers on a Dracula tour decided he was schizophrenic and refused to travel further with him," he said.

Then there was the man who saw the Foreign Office Consular Department as a superior courier service. "Someone sent a Christmas present to his son in Israel. He contacted the consular department and said the son had moved and asked us to send someone round to the address to which he had sent it to retrieve the parcel."

The late Ayatollah Khomeini's "fatwah" against the author of *The Satanic Verses* prompted an ingenious attempt to obtain a free holiday in London. "An optimistic Yugoslav rang up our consulate in Belgrade concerned about the welfare of Mr Salman Rushdie to offer his advice. He said he wanted to give it personally and asked if he could be provided with a ticket to London."

Such people, Mr Sainsbury said, were hindering the consular staff in their main business of helping people who had had their passports and money stolen and keeping track of the 2,000 Britons held in overseas jails.

However, despite the nuisance calls, some people are still prepared to be a consul for prestige, not money. The Foreign Office has expanded its network of honorary consuls in far-flung posts by 20 per cent in the past two years, to a total of 178. Many are locally-based British businessmen. One of the newest is at Puerta Plata in the Dominican Republic, which had very few British tourists until recently but now receives 50,000 a year.

The most exotic appointment must be Our Man in the Galapagos Islands. Honorary consuls receive from nothing to £1,000 a year, but the rumour in Whitehall is that the Galapagos honorary consul pays us.

The Times on Boxing Day.

The Times will be the only broadsheet newspaper to publish on Boxing Day this year.
To ensure that you get your copy please complete the coupon below and hand it to your newsagent.

Please reserve/deliver me a copy of *The Times* for December 26

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Major newsagents open on Boxing Day include J. Menzies, Paper Chain (East Anglia), Dillons, J.C.R. Shops, Misselbrook and Weston, Circle K, 7-Eleven, Martin-McColl (most open, check locality), Portsmouth News Shops, G.T. News and Star News Shops.

NEWS ROUNDUP

Patient 'brought in salmonella'

Health experts believe they have tracked down the source of a salmonella outbreak in which three elderly patients have died. Tests are expected to show that the infection was taken into the Royal Oldham Hospital, Greater Manchester, by one of the 13 women patients who contracted salmonella, and that it did not spread from the hospital kitchens.

Hospital authorities believe they have identified the patient who was admitted carrying the infection. The three patients who died this week were aged 75, 79 and 80. Two of them had not been expected to live because of the illness with which they were admitted, and salmonella is thought to have accelerated the death of the third.

In Dyfed, 21 people have become ill after eating a turkey infected with salmonella, health officials said. The restaurant at Carmarthen which served the Christmas meal to 12 members of the Blind Gardeners' Association and 13 of their friends, is to be prosecuted. Mr Glan Morris, of the association, said: "I was terribly ill. My legs went weak and I was sick... Believe it or not, it was one of the best Christmas meals we have ever had."

Flu is past its peak

The flu epidemic is past its peak although elderly people remain vulnerable, the Royal College of General Practitioners said yesterday. Its weekly survey showed a slight increase in the 65-plus age group, but overall there were fewer cases of people with flu or flu-like symptoms. In the week ending December 19, the number of cases of influenza dropped from 290 to to 260 per 100,000 people. In the first week of December 102 people died from flu-related illnesses.

Diesel loses price edge

Diesel, once the cheap fuel alternative, will this Christmas cost more than four-star petrol (Paul Wilkinson writes). Garage price increases of 5-6p a gallon yesterday brought to 22p the average rise since July. BP now charges £1.84 a gallon and Esso about £1.86. Producers say weather factors have pushed the world market price from $160 a tonne in June to $220. The UK Petrol Retailers Association said the price differential should return in the summer.

Police car clue appeal

Detectives searching for Miss Ruth Stevens, aged 33, the shop assistant who disappeared after leaving night classes at Warminster, Wiltshire, 10 days ago, said yesterday they had had a "superb" response from the public in their calls for information. Her missing silver Vauxhall Viva car was found in Islington, north London, and Inspector Bob Evans said detectives were now hoping to hear from anyone who may have seen someone driving, parking or leaving the car.

Boy inherits £10m

The £10 million estate of Burton Agnes Hall near Bridlington, North Humberside, complete with Elizabethan manor, stud and art collection has been inherited by Simon Cunliffe-Lister, aged 12, grandson of Lord Whitelaw, the former deputy Prime Minister (Ronald Faux writes). It was bequeathed by Mr Marcus Wickham-Boynton, the former guardsman and racehorse breeder who died this week, aged 85, and will be taken over when Simon comes of age.

Police find man dead

Police were yesterday investigating the death of a man, believed to have shot himself, outside a police station. The man was found with a shotgun wound to the head on the pavement outside Cowplain police station on the A3 near Havant, Hampshire. It is understood a shotgun was found by his side. The man, thought to be in his mid-20s, was found by officers who heard shots early yesterday morning. Police were making inquiries to try to identify the man.

Doubts remain, but many want curbs on producers eased

Commons TV here to stay, most MPs believe

By Sheila Gunn
Political Reporter

A clear majority of MPs believe the cameras will stay in the Commons and that the restrictions on the producers should be slightly eased, according to Westminster sources.

In spite of remaining doubts about editing and lighting, a vote next summer to return to the old non-televised days is widely considered to be improbable.

Even the small core of dedicated opponents appear to be resigned to the permanent presence of the cameras, even though they intend to continue to argue about the details.

Mr Bernard Weatherill, the Speaker, disclosed yesterday that his postbag has doubled since the start of the experiment in November with most writers in favour of a televised Commons. Other MPs report similar enthusiasm from constituents and a much greater interest than expected in the Commons proceedings.

Mrs Thatcher, who opposed the televising of the Commons, has said she wants the experiment to run longer before deciding whether to support their permanent presence.

Mr Weatherill admitted that the admission of the cameras made his job more difficult. Instead of just wanting to be heard, MPs now "want to be seen to be heard", he said on BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme. "The pressures on the chair, I have to say, are infinitely greater. But we have to bear this sort of thing with fortitude."

Televised proceedings had not made much difference to the procedures except that the Speaker noticed more government statements and more requests for private notice questions.

He said: "One of the good things about television is that it has proved to people that the behaviour in the House of Commons is really very good. The letters I am receiving from the public make this point.

"Our system believes in the settlement of disputes by the word rather than by the sword. If we are going to have that it is better to do it on the floor of the House of Commons rather than in the streets."

Dr John Cunningham, shadow Leader of the House, also said yesterday the experiment had been very successful. "I think getting the cameras in is a breath of fresh air," he said.

"I hope it has an impact on the House in the way we conduct our business. And people watching will have a far better understanding of what goes on and why. It would be reactionary in the extreme if we were now going to remove the cameras. It took longer to get them into the Commons than to get them into the Soviet Parliament."

However, one Conservative, Mr David Amess, MP for Basildon, said he would still fight for a "camera-free" Commons and that he was more adamantly opposed than ever. He complained to fellow MPs that the lights were obtrusive and the cameras noticeable. Nor had the cameras brought MPs flocking back into the Chamber.

"I very much regret the televising of our proceedings and note that the television companies have certainly not stuck to the guidelines on showing only head-and-shoulders shots."

Sir Geoffrey Howe, Leader of the House, described Mr Amess's remarks as sounding a "profoundly reactionary note". Sir Geoffrey said: "It is an experiment. I take a less jaundiced view than he does."

World Cup policing inadequate, MPs say

By John Goodbody
Sports News Correspondent

The Government is to send only 12 policemen to Sardinia next June to help the Italian officers control the England football supporters during the World Cup.

Although that is double the number sent to West Germany last year for the European Championship when about 800 people, including 394 Britons, were arrested in a series of street clashes, the Government was yesterday criticized for not providing greater assistance.

Mr Tom Pendry, the Labour MP for Stalbridge and Hyde and chairman of the All-Party Football Committee, said: "We hope the Government will reconsider these numbers. It is too few for the job. It does not set a good example to the rest of the world that we are taking it so lightly. It is vitally important that the World Cup goes off smoothly."

Mr Menzies Campbell, the Liberal Democrat MP for North-East Fife and his party's spokesman on sport, said that the numbers were "wholly inadequate. They hardly support the idea of a government which is so keen to save the good name of English football".

Although England has been allocated Sardinia for the opening three games for security reasons, the tournament remains potentially combustible.

It was therefore expected that greater British resources would be made available, although the number of officers who will accompany the Scottish team has still to be decided.

Mr Graham Kelly, chief executive of the Football Association, yesterday said: "We cannot get involved in this. It is up to the Home Office. We are grateful for any help."

Jostling start to the Christmas exodus

MALCOLM CLARKE

Crowds of travellers at Heathrow Airport yesterday joining the great Christmas getaway. About 100,000 are expected to pass through the airport today.

By Paul Wilkinson

Prospects for a white Christmas are slight except for people in northern Scotland or on high ground in northern England, the London Weather Centre said last night.

All the indications suggest it will be another mild holiday, as last year, with some rain and strong winds today and tomorrow.

Christmas Day should have showers and above-average temperatures, while Boxing Day is expected to provide ideal conditions for a bracing walk to work off the holiday excesses; sunny periods, bright skies and lower temperatures.

The floods caused by torrential rain earlier in the week had cleared by yesterday morning, allowing the Christmas exodus to begin unhindered.

British Rail said its boarding pass scheme for Inter-City journeys of three hours or more was working well despite early confusion. The scheme is designed to ensure long-distance travellers get a seat.

Extra trains ran last night and this morning in most areas, but services begin to run down from 7pm tonight. The last trains will run at about 10pm on Christmas Eve. There will be no services on Christmas Day.

On Boxing Day there will only be limited services from London Victoria to Gatwick, St Pancras to Luton and boat trains to the Channel ports.

Gatwick airport staff handled almost 62,000 passengers yesterday and expected to deal with a similar number today — seven per cent up on last year.

More than 100,000 passengers went through Heathrow yesterday and a similar number were due today, with about 75,000 expected tomorrow. British Airways said it expected a record number to use the shuttle services to Edinburgh, Glasgow and Belfast. It is providing an extra 13,000 seats because of the demand for destinations in the Caribbean, Florida, India and the Middle East.

Manchester airport predicted its busiest Christmas yet with about 55,000 passengers due to fly out this weekend in search of snow and sun.

On the motorways, traffic was steady with the main rush expected today and tomorrow.

● This year's Christmas post amounted to a record 1.5 billion items, some 50 million up on last year (Libby Jukes writes).

The December rush was swelled by millions of water shares applications — and included half a million letters addressed to "Reindeerland". At the high-speed mechanized letter office in St Pancras, north-west London, yesterday, Sir Bryan Nicholson, Post Office chairman, paid tribute to his staff.

"I want to salute our own dedicated postmen and women who have worked so hard, especially through some foul weather, to get this tidal wave of mail delivered," he said.

Their busiest day was Monday December 11, when mail volumes peaked at 115 million items — twice the average.

Special Christmas stamps, carrying an extra penny for charity, are likely to exceed the national "Post a Penny, Show You Care" campaign target of £1 million.

The Post Office rounded off the year with another record, announcing profits of £58 million for the period April to September.

Jane Austen trust concedes defeat

By Simon Tait
Arts Correspondent

A descendant of Jane Austen has conceded defeat in trying to establish the world's first Jane Austen study and research centre in the family home, where the novelist wrote much of her later work.

Mr Henry Rice, chairman of the Jane Austen Development Fund, had hoped that Chawton House in Hampshire could be acquired by the Jane Austen Centre Trust, but has been told that the group's offer of more than £1million has been rejected.

Instead, it is expected that the house will be sold for development, possibly a hotel with a golf course in the house's 26 acres and the 200 acres of an adjoining farm.

"We are terribly disappointed, expecially after we had been led to believe only a week ago that we were almost home and dry," Mr Rice said yesterday. "Although we were only able to make an offer for the house and grounds, not for the farmland, we had a very encouraging meeting and later checked to find out how things were progressing. Then we got this letter saying our offer had not been accepted after all."

Chawton House, near Alton, was inherited in 1812 by Jane Austen's brother Edward, who changed his name to Knight to comply with the conditions of the bequest. The house, built in the 15th century, has been in the Knight family since 1580. Jane Austen lived on the estate in a cottage, which is now a museum dedicated to her.

Mr Rice is a descendant of Edward Austen-Knight, as is the present owner, Mr Richard Knight, who inherited the property two years ago. Mr Knight, president of the Jane Austen Society, said the trust had no reason to feel that success was near last week. He referred inquiries to his estate agents, Humberts.

No agreement had been finalized for the sale of Chawton House "and the study centre is definitely not written out of the picture at this stage", Humberts said.

But the trustees have been told that it will not be sold to them. "The letter is quite unequivocal that we have not been successful, but that the new owner could accommodate us in his business plans," Mr Rice said. "We can't consider just being given a couple of rooms. We need much more space, at least as much as the whole of Chawton House."

The trust has not abandoned plans for a centre and is now looking for a suitable property in Winchester, where Jane Austen, who is buried in Winchester Cathedral, died in 1817.

Mr Henry Rice: £1million offer has been rejected.

'Credit card' found from 13th century

By Simon Tait, Arts Correspondent

A seal, which would have been the equivalent of cheque card, passport and credit card rolled into one for the person who lost it more than 700 years ago, has been found by archaeologists working in Oxford.

Mr David Dawson, of the Oxfordshire County Museum, Woodstock, where the seal will go on display, said: "This was a personal seal which would have been carried round everywhere by the owner. He would have been lost without it, and it is rare thing to find because it would normally have been destroyed on his death."

What makes the small, corroded and fragile 13th-century seal unique is that it was found in records in the Bodleian Library, to belong to the seal's owner.

It bears the legend 'S' ROGERUM COMENORE CLICI, indicating that the seal (*sigillum*) belonged to Roger of Cumnor, clerk or priest, who worked as a lawyer. The site is on the corner of Hollybush Row in Oxford, on which Halls Brewery stood most recently, which is being developed by Grosvenor Square Property Developers.

Roger who gave two buildings on it to Oseney Abbey in 1265, during the reign of Henry III, according to the Bodleian Library. The seal was found in a ditch between the two buildings.

Mr Brian Durham, a member of the Oxford Archaeological Unit which made the discovery during excavations last week, said: "The new find could be a forgery but the more likely explanation is that it is his early seal, which he lost when he was actually living in the house. You can picture him hunting unsuccessfully for it."

"Since he worked, in effect, as a solicitor, he would have had to alert everyone to the fact that the seal could have been stolen and used for forgeries. Then he would have had to have a different seal made."

Thatcher fails to disappoint

Turkey time for No 10

By Robin Young

Mrs Thatcher was due to get a Christmas present yesterday, but policemen at the Whitehall end of Downing Street were advising tourists there was no chance of seeing her. "It will be accepted on her behalf at the door, and then presented to her inside No 10. She invariably gives it away to a hospital, anyway."

Wrong, as it happens, on almost all counts. True, Mrs Thatcher did not personally fetch the 34lb turkey presented to her by the British Turkey Federation but she did come into the street while it was carried inside to tell reporters and cameramen about the other "great Christmas news" — the fall of President Ceausescu.

"Isn't it wonderful news, for the people of Romania and for the world?" she said. 1989 had been "the most dramatic and historic year" with east European countries one after another "choosing freedom".

Then she went back indoors to confront her turkey. Contrary to sceptical police reports, it will be served at Chequers over Christmas.

Not everything goes quite as the Prime Minister would wish, however. There were still workmen at the end of her street yesterday, struggling to install her new metal gates. The police, who will have to open and shut them, said there had been delays and difficulties with building work,

● Lack of women in Cabinet has serious consequences ●

and they did not expect the gates to be ready for Christmas. But then, of course, policemen can be wrong.

● Campaigners for more women MPs last night criticized the Prime Minister for failing to appoint a woman to the Cabinet during the last five years (Richard Ford writes).

They said that although there were at present five women ministers, none of them was in the Cabinet and that that had "very serious consequences".

Miss Andrea Whalley, chairwoman of the national executive of the 300 group, added: "It is unlikely another woman in the Conservatives could become Prime Minister in the foreseeable future."

The 300 group said it welcomed the progress made during the 1980s in the fight for more women to win positions in public life particularly the increase in the number of women MPs from 19 in 1979 to a record 42 now. "The decade ends with a woman Prime Minister, a woman deputy speaker of the House of Commons, a woman MP in the Labour whips office," Miss Whalley said.

However, she criticized the Conservative record, saying there had never been a female Tory whip and that they had fielded half the number of women candidates in the 1987 general election of either the Labour or Alliance, despite having the greatest number of seats on offer.

Appeal for threatened open space

By Sheila Gunn
Political Reporter

Legislation is needed to prevent development engulfing many of Britain's open spaces, Mr Chris Patten, Secretary of State for Environment, will be told today.

In a letter to him, the Open Spaces Society says local authorities are increasingly tempted to take over or sell protected land, such as common land, old parkland, water meadows and woods.

Among threatened sites listed are Larkswood playing field, Chingford, Essex; Coles plantation, Scunthorpe; Vansittart Road recreation ground, Windsor; Bitton Park, Teignmouth; Townsfield recreation ground, Kendal; Ransom's recreational ground, Hitchin; land at Lowmead in Trowbridge and Kimberley, Nottingham.

The society calls for legislation to stop publicly owned open space being sold or used for other purposes without land being offered in exchange.

Question mark hangs over future of meat market

By John Young

Smithfield Market closed yesterday for the Christmas holiday with strong late demand for fresh turkeys, but with question marks over its future.

The London Central Markets were opened 121 years ago by the Lord Mayor, and 1,200 guests sat down to a "dejeuner" of boars' heads and barons of beef. Since the departure of the fruit and vegetable merchants from Covent Garden and fishmongers from Billingsgate to other parts of the capital, and with the impending closure of Spitalfields, the meat traders of Smithfield operate the last wholesale market in central London.

Whether they will continue to do so, and for how long, is another matter. What is certain is that, if the market does stay, it will have to accept radical changes in its working practices.

Smithfield has been described as the strongest closed shop in Britain, if not the world. The workforce is recruited by the Transport and General Workers' Union, jobs passing from father to son and from uncle to nephew. The family atmosphere is cherished.

The Government's decision to outlaw the closed shop, with the support of Labour, seems certain to change that. But even without legislation, the City of London Corporation, which owns the market, has made it clear that it wants new working practices before it pays for renovation.

The site is nearly 10 acres, and, from a strictly commercial viewpoint, the obvious step would be to move the market and build offices. The corporation has said it wants the market to stay but is faced with heavy expenditure to modernize it to meet European Community standards by 1992.

For the most part, those working in the market seem resigned to change. Mr Terence Drane, who began 40 years ago as an offal boy and has since worked as a humper, a meat cutter, a salesman and a trader, said: "I like to see innovation, but at the same time I'm a little bit sad about it. My father was here before me and set up as a trader when rationing ended. But the old atmosphere has already gone."

A man who termed himself a freelance bummaree [porter] challenged the term "closed shop", saying: "What would you do if your son came to you looking for a job. You wouldn't give it to a stranger, would you?"

The number of manual jobs has fallen by two thirds in the past 25 years. "I've been here 30 years," one trader said, "and the place has been shutting down ever since I started."

Mr Drane said: "In 1992, when the new regulations come into force, we'll be operating in a completely sterile environment. The meat will come off the lorries on roller rails, and I can't honestly see any place for the pitchers [lorry unloaders] and the bummarees. But that's something that the union will have to work out ... We'll see a couple more traditional Christmases, but no more."

Skye bridge deadline passes

By Kerry Gill

All tenders for the building of the bridge to the Isle of Skye had to be in by last night. The winning contractor is expected to be known shortly.

However, the bridge, which is expected to be completed in 1994, has raised the hackles of many islanders because tolls will be imposed. Already a petition bearing more than 7,000 signatures has been raised calling on the Government to make it toll free.

Objections to the toll bridge centre on the projected £6 return fare, but it is hoped the crossing will be free by 2009 once the debts have been paid.

The Government has promised to provide about £6 million to pay for the approach roads, but has said it cannot contemplate public funding for a bridge for at least 20 years.

The bridge, which will cross from Kyle of Lochalsh on the mainland to Kyleakin, is expected to cost in the region of £18 million at today's prices.

Although Highland Regional Council voted overwhelmingly for a toll bridge, Mr Duncan Grant, councillor for South West Ross, said it was utterly wrong for the Government to impose tolls where there was no alternative route.

At present, vehicles and travellers use the ferry across the narrow stretch of sea. The fare is £6.20 return for a car.

Buying The Times overseas
Austria Sch 32; Belgium B Frs 55; Canada $2.75; Canaries Pes 220; Cyprus 90 cents; Denmark Dkr 14.00; Finland Mkk 10.00; France F 10.00; W Germany DM 3.80; Gibraltar 80p; Greece Dr 220; Holland Gl 3.80; Irish Republic 40p; Italy L 3,000; Luxembourg Lf 55; Madeira Esc 220; Malta 40c; Morocco Dir 16.00; Norway Kr 14.00; Pakistan Rps 15; Portugal Esc 220; Spain Pes 220; Sweden Skr 14.00; Switzerland S Frs 3.50; Tunisia Dm 1.20; USA $2.80.

Airline plan to boost Heathrow flights faces strong protests

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

Airlines want to use Heathrow's two main runways for both take-off and landings simultaneously in an attempt to increase the number of flights from the airport by at least 10 per cent.

Led by British Midland Airways, they are to launch a campaign to persuade the Department of Transport and the Civil Aviation Authority to back their plans. They are, however, bound to meet strong opposition from local environmental organizations and safety experts.

All landings now are made on one of the two parallel runways while the other is used for all take-offs. At 3pm each day the two are switched to avoid constant noise for residents living under the flight paths.

The arrangement — which changes each week so that different towns and villages are subjected to noise at different times of the day — is regarded by the Government as the fairest way of dealing with the noise problem and of enabling air traffic controllers to handle arriving and departing aircraft safely.

The airlines, however, are convinced that the system is cutting the number of flights that could be handled by an airport already nearing its capacity. One day this year there were a record number of 1,152 aircraft movements. Airlines have calculated that more than 100 other flights could be achieved in the same period if the runways were used in "mixed mode".

They will argue that modern aircraft are quieter than older jets and climb more steeply, reducing noise near the airport. They will claim that by using both runways at the same time for both take-offs and landings noise will be reduced overall although it will continue for longer.

The Civil Aviation Authority is, however, sceptical about the proposals which, it claims, could lead to a greater workload on air traffic controllers and cause greater problems for aircraft taxiing. It is pressing, instead, for more exits from the main runways so that aircraft can turn off more quickly, allowing following jets to land.

Although mixed-mode operations are common in the United States at airports such as O'Hare, in Chicago, pilots use a visual approach throughout the year. This allows them to ensure that the runway is clear before they touch down.

At Heathrow, fog and poor visibility requires much use of instrument landing techniques which require aircraft to be at least three miles apart on approach and about five miles apart on departure.

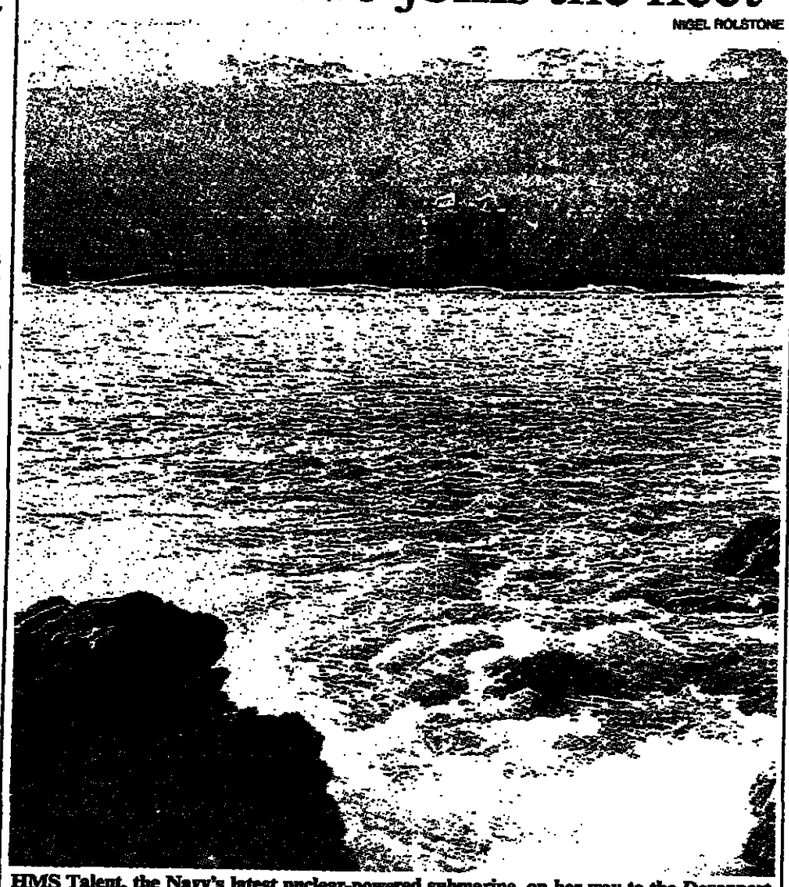
They are also concerned that if aircraft are landing on both runways at once there could be congestion on the taxi-ways as aircraft try to reach their terminal and have to cross each other on the way.

Because the existing system has been in operation for many years pilots know and understand it and are used to the mid-afternoon switch from one runway to the other. To change it, they will argue, could cause confusion.

Although everyone is convinced that, technically, the problem could be overcome and that it could remain safe, the main objection is certain to come from the Department of Transport which is under tremendous pressure from local residents to limit further the noise around Heathrow.

Nuclear sub joins the fleet

NIGEL ROLSTONE



HMS Talent, the Navy's latest nuclear-powered submarine, on her way to the Devonport naval dockyard at Plymouth. The £250 million Trafalgar-class vessel, capable of 32 knots, was one of two new warships delivered to the dockyard yesterday. The other was HMS Chatham, the fourteenth and last of the Batch 3 Type 22 anti-submarine frigates.

Universities get extra £25m for building repairs

By Douglas Broom, Education Reporter

Universities are to be given an extra £25 million next year to begin tackling a £300 million backlog of urgent repairs to their buildings.

The University Funding Council, which distributes £1.685 billion in government grants each year, said the extra cash would supplement the £115 million which the universities plan to spend on repairs.

A study commissioned by the council last year found that up to £300 million was urgently needed to put university buildings in a "safe and sound" condition. The council said yesterday that it hoped the new money would encourage universities to spend more from their own reserves on urgent repairs.

The announcement came less than a month after the Polytechnics and Colleges Funding Council announced a £74.5 million programme to bring its 84 institutions up to the standards required by health and safety laws. Many newer universities and polytechnics are facing serious problems with concrete buildings erected in the sixties.

As a result two thirds of the £25 million will pay for projects at the worst-affected institutions although all universities will share in £8.33 million through a pro-rata formula based on student numbers. Institutions will be invited to bid for a share of the balance to cover the cost of specific projects.

London University will get the most (£1.2 million) under the pro-rata scheme while Manchester Business School will get least (£6,000).

● Wolverhampton Polytechnic is to set up a campus version of neighbourhood watch schemes to protect students and their property.

Polywatch, which will involve all 9,000 full and part time students at the polytechnic's Dudley and Wolverhampton campuses, has been established with the support of the West Midlands police.

Students and staff will be encouraged to report anything suspicious to specially elected co-ordinators, who will then call in the police. There will be monthly meetings for students to discuss the scheme.

A "ring-round" system to alert all parts of the campus to an incident will start in the new year. A pilot scheme at the Dudley campus had already led to a reduction in pilfering.

Rock star to sell historic photos

SALEROOM

John Shaw

An English rock star, who started to collect photographs of historic and contemporary America when he toured there in the late 60s and early 70s, is to sell part of his collection, which is expected to make more than $2 million (£1.25 million), it was disclosed yesterday.

Graham Nash, of the Crosby, Stills and Nash group, has assembled "one of the most important single-owner collections ever to come to auction", said Miss Beth Gates-Warren, director of Sotheby's photography department, which will sell 450 items from the collection in New York on April 25.

It includes many classic pictures by such photographers as Ansel Adams, Diane Arbus, Henry Cartier-Bresson and André Kertesz.

Sotheby's said that Mr Nash had put together "an excellent group of vintage prints" by photographers active between 1850-1970.

He has decided to give the balance of his collection, which includes works by contemporary photographers, to the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. Mr Nash, who lives in California, said: "When I came to America in the 1960s and saw nineteenth century photographs of North American Indians, I was drawn to the medium because of the window it provided into an entirely different time and culture.

"The photograph that started me as a collector, however, was Diane Arbus's "Child with a toy hand grenade" because of its uncanny ability to move. To me, the essence of a fine photograph is found in its power to move." It is estimated at $12,000-$18,000 (£7,550-£11,320).

A fine selection of portraits includes one by Edward Steichen of Gloria Swanson, the film star, in a black lace veil — estimate $10,000-$20,000 (£6,290-£12,580) — and the triple portrait of Andy Warhol from 1973 by Duane Michal, estimate $2,000-$2,500 (£1,260-£1,570).

Charity aid sought to save babies' lives

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

Almost half the neonatal units in British hospitals are short of equipment needed to save the lives of premature, frail and ill babies, a charity said yesterday.

More than 90 hospitals have in the last two weeks requested intensive care equipment from Bliss, the Baby Life Support Systems charity, in addition to 40 other applications for help. Total value of the requests exceeds £1 million.

Last year, a working party of the Royal College of Physicians reported that several hundred new-born babies die each year in Britain because of "serious deficiencies" in hospital facilities.

The report said there was a shortage of at least 500 intensive care cots in England and Wales, and that many of the 3,500 deaths a year among infants under one month could be avoided with adequate resources. However, Bliss officials said yesterday there was little or no evidence that the situation had improved in the 15 months since the report was published.

Mrs Judith Kay, director of the charity, said: "Hospitals are turning to charitable sources to provide the sort of life-saving equipment that needs to be on hand for every baby born with problems, from the first second of birth."

The upsurge in applications to the charity is due to an appeal by BBC Television's *Blue Peter* for aluminium cans for recycling. The proceeds are used for life-support equipment.

Bliss has granted more than £1.5 million to about half the British neonatal units since its inception in 1979.

Museums lose fight to keep Lizzy the fossil

Nick Nuttall, Technology Correspondent

Lizzy, the 338 million year-old British fossil can be exported to West Germany, the Government has decided.

That means Mr Stan Wood, the fossil-hunter who found it near Bathgate, Lothian, is free to sell Lizzy to Stuttgart Museum for a record £180,000.

Mr Richard Luce, Minister for the Arts, and Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, have been advised that, legally, the world's oldest reptilian relic is not an artifact, consequently no export licence is needed.

The decision is likely to sadden the nation's palaeontologists who had hoped that the rare find, similar to a modern sand lizard, would stay in Britain.

The government decision means that the recommendations of the Committee for the Export of Works of Art, which met this month to decide Lizzy's fate, are invalid. At the meeting, advisers from the Natural History Museum in London and the Royal Museum of Scotland (RMS) in Edinburgh had argued that time was needed to see if the RMS could raise the money.

The museum, which has a collection of fossils from the same site, had initially been offered Lizzy but deemed the price "ludicrous".

Dr Robin Cocks, head of palaeontology at the Natural History Museum, said yesterday: "I am very sorry that the national museums will not have the chance now to get together the funds in time to keep this unique fossil."

The Government has been told that if the export laws were changed to include fossils even coal would become classified as a work of art. However, Dr Cocks described that as a "crazy" argument.

Mr Wood was unavailable for comment.

After The Jack Daniel's Miller Inspects The Corn, Barley And Rye, He Gets A Second Opinion.

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THE DOWNFALL OF CEAUSESCU

The light goes out on Bucharest's eccentric despot

By Roger Boyes

The Shining Light of the World, the Hero of Heroes, the Genius of the Carpathians has grown old. The Romanian court poets continued to pour out sycophantic patter, but the light of Nicolae Ceausescu, aged 71, has now gone out.

After the Warsaw Pact summit in July, Europe's most eccentric despot limited his official meetings to 12 minutes and his afternoon siestas stretched towards evening.

As he aged and ailed, so did his remarkable dynasty, the unparalleled network of family power that sprinkled relatives throughout the party and state machinery. The socialist state operated openly as a family firm; there were no mechanisms for succession, no real distinctions between party and state, no measures of performance beyond loyalty to the Ceausescu clan.

The two most important figures in the dynasty were Elena, Nicolae's vain, self-aggrandizing wife, and her son Nicu, aged 37.

Romania used to be a place of great culture and great backwardness, of co-existing poets and beggars. Bucharest was a city of world class. But, under the Ceausescu clan, that culture had sapped truly talented poets like Mircea Dinescu, who lived under house arrest. The poverty belt had widened. School teachers, shop assistants and minor bureaucrats as well as factory workers and small farmers lived on the margin.

There is an allowance of 300 grammes of bread a day per person. Sugar is rationed. Potatoes and tomatoes have disappeared. Romanian meat is exported for dollars. It was this same, ruinous export drive, coupled with the stifling of imports, that allowed Mr Ceausescu to announce proudly this year that he had paid off Romania's external debt.

From the tinted glass windows of the restaurant at the top of Bucharest's Intercontinental Hotel, it did not look so bleak. Here young Nicu celebrated with friends.

Nicu, perhaps preparing himself for the leadership of Romania, once got into a drunken brawl here with the actor Florian Piersic. Nicu had tried to pick up the actor's wife, Anna Celes, and her brawny husband did not display the necessary degree of submission. Nicu's political career took off in 1972 at the age of 19 and, despite his chaotic private life, has kept pace with that of his mother ever since.

When Nicolae Ceausescu, the son of a shoemaker, took over as party chief in 1965, he purged hundreds of officials. Consolidation of his power took some seven years and his family played a part from the beginning.

Manea Manescu, married to Nicolae's sister Maria, was brought into the politburo in 1968, while a newphew, Cornel Burtica, was elected to the central committee in 1969.

Elena, a Communist from pre-war days, was elected to the Central Committee in 1972, when she was 52 years old. At the time her husband was collecting jobs: he became, simultaneously, party chief, Supreme Commander of the Army, President and Chief Economic Planner. Later, he would take to carrying a sceptre.

Elena grew quickly into the uncrowned Queen of Romania: she bought clothes from Paris, had a stylish haircut and developed a fetish for jewellery. And she rose and rose. On her skirt-tails rode Nicu, who was made boss of the Young Communist League, her sister Alexandrina (Politburo member), her brother Mr Gheorge Petrescu (minister). Meanwhile the President's brother, Ilie, was put in political charge of the army, and another brother, Marin, was sent to the Romanian Embassy in Vienna.

And yet another brother, Florea, was made an editor of the party newspaper.

But these appointees grew older alongside their patron. Ten, even five years ago, it was conceivable that a family fight in the style of Dynasty or Dallas would settle the succession. After so many years in sinecures, the elder part of the dynasty was not up to a fight. The exception was Elena and she, too, seemed to recognize the need to hand over to, or share power with, her son.

Nicu's drunken driving, his womanizing, his fast cars, his modish clothes (he appeared at military manoeuvres in a Lacoste shirt and sunglasses) marked him out as a man of the 1970s, the era when the Brezhnev children, indeed many of the Red Princes of the Soviet bloc, ran riot and flaunted their privileges.

The clan, many of whom lived in the same complex in Bucharest (to live close to the Ceausescu's was a sign of high favour), drifted out of touch with their country. After work, Mr Ceausescu liked to watch Kojak videos in a special projection room. His people, meanwhile, could watch the numbing Romanian television only between 8pm and 10pm. So dreary was their fare that they eagerly watched Soviet television programmes relayed from Bulgaria.

Elena instructed Romanian embassies to pick up exquisite furnishings for the President's summer residence (a string of unoccupied villas throughout the country were kept ready in case Mr Ceausescu should visit, say once a year).

Most offensive of all was the clan's pharaonic ambition to reconstruct Bucharest: the building of the Boulevard of Socialist Victory, half a mile long and 100 yards wide — intended to give the capital a Champs-Elysées.

The boulevard was supposed to be in a neo-classical style but has come out instead as neo-fascist. So far 16 churches, three monasteries, the remains of two palaces and several thousand ordinary houses have been destroyed in its name. Many other Romanian cities are getting the same treatment.

The difference between Mr Ceausescu's architectural ambitions and those of the pharoahs is more than style or taste; the pharoahs at least had a sense of mortality.

Power to the people: Only days after the army fired on protesters in Timisoara, citizens in Bucharest embrace soldiers who have turned against the regime.

Countdown to the collapse of a dynasty

The week that saw the collapse of the Ceausescu family stranglehold on Romania:

Saturday December 16 — Five thousand people launch unprecedented demonstration in Timisoara, close to Hungarian border, against the deportation of the Rev Laszlo Tokes, the Protestant pastor and activist, on behalf of the Hungarian minority. Authorities send in troops backed by tanks and helicopters.

Sunday 17th — Protesters swell to 10,000 and set about government offices, burning books and portraits of Mr Ceausescu.

Monday 18th — Mr Ceausescu leaves for three-day state visit to Iran. First eyewitness accounts emerge of massacres and hundreds of dead in Timisoara. Hungarian radio reports that Timisoara, Oradea and Cluj, the capital of the Transylvanian region, are controlled by tanks, and there are incidents in the frontier town of Kurtos. Hungarian Parliament condemns human rights violations and the treatment of Mr Tokes.

Tuesday 19th — Factory workers in Timisoara, led by the Elba electric equipment plant, stage protest gatherings. More shooting there and in Arad. In Bucharest, security patrols criss-cross city after strikes the previous day. United States issues a "severe" condemnation of the "brutal repression", echoed by Polish Parliament and the European Community.

Wednesday 20th — New evidence about the savagery of the crackdown in Timisoara — children crushed by tanks, demonstrators skewered on bayonets, machine-gun fire against passers-by, soldiers bursting into hospitals. Hungarian radio broadcasts a recording of the shooting and the rumble of the tanks. ADN, the East German news agency, gives a death toll of 3,000 to 4,000 just in Timisoara, and reports uprisings in a dozen other towns. Undeterred, more than 10,000 people demonstrate again in Timisoara, this time to protest at being barred from burying victims.

That evening, Mr Ceausescu, back from Tehran, says in a radio broadcast that the Army had intervened in Timisoara "to counter groups of hooligans". An hour later, a state of emergency is declared in Timisoara region.

Thursday 21st — Government calls for official demonstration of support in Bucharest by 100,000 people, but they suddenly turn against the regime. Clashes with police leave eight to 20 dead. About 5,000, mostly young demonstrators chanting "Down with Ceausescu!", refuse to leave University Square, cordoned off by lines of soldiers and tanks which entered the city during the night. State radio and television broadcast appeals for action by combat units.

Timisoara paralysed by a general strike. Troops pull out when a "Committee for Socialist Democracy" threatens to blow up a factory. Thousands of people demanding the departure of Mr Ceausescu flock into the streets all night. At Tirgu Mures, security forces shoot at demonstrators, killing several.

Friday 22nd — State of emergency declared. Within hours, Mr Ceausescu flees crowds besieging presidential palace to a military airport. His arrest is ordered. State radio announces he has been deposed.

How Ceausescu first came to power and established his iron rule:

1947 — Communists take power.

1965 — Stalinist leader Gheorghe Gheorghiu-Dej dies, Ceausescu takes over.

1968 — Ceausescu denounces crackdown in Czechoslovakia; refuses to send troops to help. This and other moves make him a favourite in the West. President Nixon visits in 1969, President Ford in 1975.

1977 — Troops break up strike by 30,000 coal miners, and arrest leaders.

1982 — Extensive purges reported in government and party, including Ceausescu family members and Mr Ilie Verdet, the Prime Minister.

1987, November — Forces break up pro-reform rally in Brasov by 10,000 people. Rally leaders are arrested and dissappear.

1989 November 24 — Communist Party re-elects Mr Ceausescu.

November 29 — Nadia Comaneci, the Olympic gymnast, flees Romania to US.

December 2 — Mr Ceausescu levels unusual criticism at his party and calls for a programme to modernize the food industry and improve consumer distribution.

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THE DOWNFALL OF CEAUSESCU

The fateful five days that toppled a tyrant

From the mass of reports coming out of Romania **Nicholas Beeston** *pieces together the fateful last hours of Nicolae Ceausescu's dictatorship.*

At one o'clock yesterday morning in Bucharest's central University Square, Mr Nicolae Ceausescu fought and lost his last battle.

Shaken by five days of nationwide protests, he had ordered his security apparatus to halt the insurrection once and for all by teaching 30,000 students, workers and other protesters the lessons of Tiananmen Square.

Tanks, armoured personnel carriers and helicopters converged on the heart of the capital with soldiers and police under instructions to clear the streets and restore order at any cost.

An armoured vehicle moved into the throng, mowing into one group and killing two unarmed demonstrators. Police on the ground and in the air fired live ammunition and tear gas rounds into the crowd, which panicked and dispersed into the side streets trying to find shelter. By the end of the night the death toll in Bucharest and other Romanian cities would reach more than 50.

But amid the terrified screams and the weeping from those affected by the gas, eyewitnesses said that 100 people stood their ground in the square against the most intimidating weapons at the state's disposal.

The shootings and cries of defiance continued throughout the night, but by morning the city centre began to fill up again with demonstrators, inspired by the democracy movements in the rest of Eastern Europe and lured to Bucharest by the scent of victory.

Only a week before, Western diplomats in Bucharest and East European experts had discounted the possibility of this sort of popular revolution in Romania as doomed. But when the end came it took only five days to topple the dictatorship.

The spark that fired the unrest began last Saturday when crowds gathered in the Transylvanian town of Timisoara to protect the ethnic Hungarian Protestant pastor and dissident, the Rev Laszlo Tokes, from threatened arrest by the police.

The incident spread quickly into a mass demonstration of disobedience against the authorities, who responded by sending in police and army reinforcements. An estimated 2,000 civilians are reported to have been massacred in the bloody rampage that followed.

But instead of curbing the unrest, the brutal repression had the effect of accelerating the spread of the rebellion. Timisoara became the symbol and focus of the rebellion and subsequent demonstrations and strikes went unpunished.

By midweek a national movement had emerged from the revolt and the unrest spread to nearly every big city in the country.

Mr Ceausescu did not at first appear concerned about the disturbances and on Monday went ahead with his planned state visit to Iran, leaving control of the country in the normally capable hands of Mrs Elena Ceausescu, his wife and second in command.

On his return to Romania on Wednesday, he addressed the nation on television admitting that civilians had been killed in Timisoara but blaming "fascists" and foreigners for the troubles.

In a move aimed at silencing his critics, he called his faithful to attend a pro-government rally outside the presidential palace on Thursday, where he hoped he would be shown to the world as a leader still in control.

But the tactic went badly wrong when student protesters shouted him down, and the live television broadcast was abruptly stopped.

The ensuing night of violence was Mr Ceausescu's last as leader, and by yesterday morning Nicu, his son, understood quickly that the longest-ruling dynasty in Eastern Europe was over and was the first of the clan to attempt to flee. But instead of admitting defeat, Mr Ceausescu displayed for the last time his qualities of arrogance and tenacity that had helped to rule unopposed for more than two decades.

He ordered simultaneously the imposition of a state of emergency throughout the country and announced that General Vasile Milea, his Defence Minister, had committed suicide in disgrace and was being blamed for the disturbances. The carrot and stick tactic — offering the demonstrators a scapegoat and granting the security forces even greater powers — might have persuaded the Romanian people six months ago.

By now thousands of singing and chanting Romanians had assembled with banners at Unity Square opposite the Intercontinental Hotel where bemused soldiers looked on as their opponents from the night before shouted "The Army is with us" and clambered on to tanks to prove it.

The crowd marched unopposed to the Communist Party Central Committee building where Mr Ceausescu, apparently caught unaware, was rescued by helicopter

Cry freedom: Jubilant crowds celebrate outside the Romanian television building in Bucharest after news of the overthrow of President Ceausescu yesterday was broadcast to the nation.

Washington (AP) — The US State Department said yesterday that it was evacuating dependents and some workers at the US Embassy in Romania, and urged other Americans to leave the country because of the "deteriorating situation" there. The department also warned Americans against travelling to Romania.

World reaction

Queen strips deposed dictator of honour

By Andrew McEwen
Diplomatic Editor

The Queen yesterday stripped President Ceausescu of his honorary knighthood, while the Foreign Office attacked his "treacherous, primitive and aggressive dictatorship".

The unprecedented move was announced as the West celebrated the apparent downfall of the hated dictator. Mrs Thatcher called it "wonderful news for Christmas", while the White House said "a terrible burden of dictatorial rule appears to have been lifted".

Moscow gave a low-key reaction, and appeared to be sticking to its policy of allowing its former satellites to go their own way. Mr Vadim Perfiliev, a foreign ministry spokesman, hoped there would be a peaceful settlement as soon as possible.

In another move the Foreign Ministers of the European Community pledged immediate aid to Romania and praised the courage of the Romanian people.

After an extraordinary meeting called by M Roland Dumas, the French Foreign Minister, the Twelve said Romanians paid a "heavy price" in toppling Mr Ceausescu.

The British Government's decision to recommend the Queen to cancel Mr Ceausescu's award was made before yesterday's extraordinary scenes in Bucharest. Until then it had held back, fearing that such a move could set a precedent. He was made an Honorary Knight Grand Cross in the Civil Division of the Most Honorable Order of the Bath, during an exchange of courtesies when he made a state visit to Britain in 1978.

At the time Romania was seen as the West's best hope in the Eastern bloc, because of Mr Ceausescu's refusal to follow many of Brezhnev's policies.

The Queen will be returning the award he gave her, the Star of the Socialist Republic First Class. A Foreign Office spokesman said: "This action has been taken as a mark of revulsion at the abuse of human rights in Romania for which President Ceausescu is responsible."

Mrs Thatcher, speaking before it became clear that troops loyal to Mr Ceausescu were still fighting, welcomed Romania to the family of free nations.

Mr Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, called it "excellent news" but said that it was a tragedy that evolution in Romania had required large-scale killings.

Mr Marlin Fitzwater, the White House spokesman, said the US was prepared to offer aid to the new government if it moved towards democracy.

Herr Manfred Wörner, Secretary General of Nato, also welcomed the regime's apparent overthrow.

He said it demonstrated "the power of the ideas of freedom and democracy for which this Alliance stands, and which are now ascendant in Central and Eastern Europe".

The East German Government welcomed Mr Ceausescu's downfall. Herr Wolfgang Meyer, a government spokesman, said: "We will have an extra reason to celebrate at the Brandenburg Gate today."

In Switzerland, former King Michael of Romania said he was ready to end 41 years of exile and return home. "Not to sit on the throne but to serve my country," he was quoted as saying by the Swiss daily, *La Tribune de Geneve*. The former monarch, aged 68, has lived in exile since being forced to abdicate in 1948.

"I will go back if I am asked to return, not to take power but to advise, to help put things right," he said.

Mr Stan Soare, Romania's Ambassador to Britain, astonished the Foreign Office by protesting yesterday that paint had been daubed on his residence in Belgrave Square. The Foreign Office said this showed "amazing insensitivity".

A spokesman added: "Emphasizing the irrelevance of the visit, he handed over the text of a speech made by President Ceausescu on December 20."

Sir John Fretwell, the Deputy Under Secretary, told him that the decision to revoke Mr Ceausescu's award had been taken "as a mark of protest against the violent repression in Timisoara and Bucharest".

He added: "We welcome this end of a treacherous, primitive and aggressive dictatorship."

Mr Ceausescu and his wife Elena with the Queen during his state visit to Britain in 1978.

How collapse of regime was flashed to the world

Yesterday's high drama is vividly brought home by the flurry of news flashes issued by the various Reuter bureaux monitoring events in Romania yesterday. The times at the start are GMT.

6.13am Moscow: People were killed and injured when Romanian forces moved against anti-government protesters in Bucharest, Tass quoted witnesses as saying.

9.07 Moscow: Hundreds of demonstrators denouncing President Ceausescu, the Romanian leader, massed for the second consecutive day in Bucharest, defying cordons of police and climbing on to tanks, Tass reported.

9.30 Belgrade: Romania's Communist authorities declared a national state of emergency, Tanjug, the Yugoslav news agency, said.

9.31 Vienna: General Vasile Milea, the Romanian Defence Minister, committed suicide after being unmasked as a traitor, Bucharest radio reported.

10.39 Vienna: President Ceausescu's resistance to the enprmous wave of protest sweeping through Romania appeared to be crumbling as demonstrators surged through the streets for the second day.

10.45 East Berlin: East Germany's official news agency said the Romanian authorities had arrested 13,500 anti-government demonstrators in Timisoara and 7,500 were reported to have been sentenced to death.

10.48 Belgrade: Troops and demonstrators in the Romanian capital joined forces and headed for the residence of President Ceausescu, Tanjug reported from Bucharest. "A mixed column of troops and citizens is moving towards the residence of President Nicolae Ceausescu," it said.

10.59 Ankara: Crowds of protesters in Bucharest were marching in large groups to the city centre, a Turkish diplomat in the Romanian capital told Turkey's semi-official Anatolian News Agency. "The situation is serious. Demonstrations began again from 8:30am and we can see crowds marching towards the city centre now," Mr Ihsan Sakarya, an embassy counsellor said.

11.06 Tokyo: Japanese Embassy officials in Bucharest saw military forces throw down their weapons before "tens of thousands" of demonstrators stormed the headquarters of the Romanian Communist Party. A Foreign Ministry spokesman said the demonstrators pulled down the national and party flags from the top of the building, replacing them with a pre-1948 flag.

11.08 London: Mr Coen Stork, the Dutch Ambassador to Romania told ITN by phone that he believed the Government of President Ceausescu had collapsed.

"There are reports from eye-witnesses that the government has left the Government building," he said.

11.17 Belgrade: President Ceausescu has fallen from power and is on the run, Belgrade radio said.

11.24 Belgrade: President Ceausescu has been overthrown, Tanjug quoted Bucharest Radio as saying. The radio said: "Ceausescu is not in power and is on the run," the agency reported.

11.35 Belgrade: President Ceausescu fled Romania by helicopter, Tanjug said. "He left by helicopter from the roof of the Presidental Palace.

11.41 Belgrade: A committee headed by Mr Corneliu Manescu, the former Romanian Foreign Minister, has taken power in Romania, Tanjug reported.

11.48 Budapest: Radio Bucharest said the country was free again after 40 years of Communist rule and appealed for the population not to seek retribution. "We are carrying the first free broadcast on Romanian radio in 40 years," the radio, monitored here, said, adding: "This was a revolution of children and youth. The dictator has been overthrown."

12.00 Warsaw: President Ceausescu was apparently plucked by helicopter from the roof of the Communist Party headquarters as protesters stormed the building, PAP, the Polish news agency said. "Shouts of 'Rat, Rat' were heard while the helicopter was flying away."

12.23pm Belgrade: President Ceausescu is at Bucharest Airport trying to flee the country, Tanjug said. A demonstrator on Romanian television appealed to the people to capture him alive because he had to be put on trial. "The army must withdraw to its barracks," he said.

1.04pm Moscow: Lieutenant-General Mihai Kitsak, the commander of the Bucharest military garrison, has appealed to soldiers to arrest Mr Ceausescu, the fallen Romanian leader before he flees the country, Tass reported.

1.28 Ankara: Romanian television announced that a General Militaru had taken provisional control of the country until a government could be formed, Mr Tugay Ulucevik, Turkey's Ambassador to Bucharest said. "The general is not a well known figure to us, and we do not even know his first name."

1.28 Belgrade: Mr Ceausescu, the deposed Romanian dictator, and his wife, Elena, have been captured and detained, a speaker on Romanian television, monitored in Belgrade, said, giving no details.

1.54 Belgrade: Mr Ceausescu has escaped, Romanian television , said. It made no mention of the former leader's wife or his son, Nicu.

2.32 Belgrade: Forces loyal to the deposed dictator are heading towards Romanian Televison headquarters, Belgrade radio said.

2.46 Belgrade: Romanian television reported that Mr Ceausescu had slipped away from his captors after being arrested with his wife in the town of Tirgoviste, about 45 miles north-west of Bucharest. Demonstrators who had taken over the Romanian television studios broadcast an appeal to stop the advance of troops loyal to Mr Ceausescu.

3.16 Belgrade: Mr Ceausescu escaped from arrest and Bucharest Radio said troops and tanks had taken up positions to defend the national television station from forces still loyal to him.

4.21 Vienna: Mr Ceausescu has been rearrested in the town of Tirgoviste, the national news agency Agerpres said.

Fund appeal

A fund has been launched to provide medical supplies for people injured in Romania in the last days of the Ceausescu regime. The appeal has been organized by Romanians living in Britain. Contributions to Medical Aid for Free Romania, should be sent to National Westminster Bank at 47 Carfax, Horsham, West Sussex, RH12 1EJ.

Mistakes that lost the Army's allegiance

By Michael Evans
Defence Correspondent

As the last of the Stalinist dictators in Eastern Europe, Nicolae Ceausescu depended on the loyalty of his security forces to keep him in power and his people repressed.

Like the old guard Communist regime in Peking, he must have calculated that his army would not turn against him even when ordered to fire on innocent civilians.

Mr Ceausescu had built up several tiers of military and paramilitary support to ensure his survival. But he made the mistake of treating his 128,000-strong army as common labourers, forcing them over the past 12 months to participate in the bulldozing of villages throughout Romania as part of his so-called "systematization" programme.

The troops were also used as cheap labour for building roads and railways and digging trenches.

Only the Securitate, the 20,000-strong armed secret police and the 2,000-member special squad which Mr Ceausescu used to satisfy his obsession with security, were given extra privileges to guarantee their loyalty.

He made another error in his dealings with his badly equipped and ill-trained army.

It is believed that the thousands of troops sent in to fire on the demonstrators at the weekend were told the protesters were ethnic Hungarians, not Romanian nationals.

He must have assumed that by inflaming the racist prejudices prevalent in Romania against the Hungarian community, his soldiers would have no compunction in opening fire.

But it is clear that when it became obvious the anti-government demonstrators were not just from the ethnic Hungarian minority, the soldiers refused to continue the massacres, especially when the trouble spread to the capital. Apart from Colonel-General Iulian Vlad, commander of the Securitate and regarded as one of the most evil men in Romania, several other key figures were known to have played a role in the military crackdown.

All these commanders now face the possibility of revenge by angry Romanians.

They are the head and deputy head of the Romanian intelligence service, Rear-Admiral Stefan Dinu and Major-General Nicolae Cucu respectively, according to *Jane's Warsaw Pact High Command* journal. Also named are Major-General Ion Geonanu, commander of the Civil Defence Forces, Colonel-General Vasile Milea, Minister of Defence and Colonel General Alexandru Petriceanu, one of the senior commanders of the Patriotic Guards.

The organization of Romania's armed forces has to be assessed in the context of Mr Ceausescu's strategy for national defence, which places great emphasis on the Patriotic Guard as a potential resistance force in the event of an invasion.

The Patriotic Guard was probably closely involved in the attempts to put down the riots in Romania, according to the *Jane's* report.

While manpower in the regular forces has decreased by 15 per cent since Mr Ceaucescu came to power, the strength of the Patriotic Guard has increased by 50,000 in 1968 to more than 500,000 today.

Also, the 650,000-strong Youth Homeland Defence Force provided Mr Ceausescu with extra manpower, though largely untrained. They took no part in the repression.

His main strategic objective was to pre-empt any "request" for Soviet military assistance from within Romania.

Mr Ceausescu had always tried to be independent of Moscow and did not allow the deployment of Soviet troops in his country.

Ex-foreign minister emerges to bid for power

By Andrew McEwen

Mr Corneliu Manescu, who emerged yesterday as the leading civilian figure after the downfall of Mr Ceausescu, is a former Foreign Minister who had been under house arrest after criticizing the leadership earlier this year.

Western diplomats said he made a speech in front of the government offices, proclaiming himself leader of the Front of National Salvation, which they saw as a bid for power. Later ADN, the East German news agency, reported from Bucharest that he had taken over.

The leading military figure appeared to be General Militaru, according to Mr Tugay Ulucevik, the Turkish Ambassador to Bucharest. He said Romanian television announced that the General had taken provisional control until a new government was formed.

It was not immediately clear whether the two men were working together.

Until his re-appearance, it had been assumed that Mr Manescu was still confined to his house and in poor health. Mr Manescu, aged 73, a tall, distinguished figure, had been reported in April to be suffering from constriction of the blood vessels and a stomach ulcer.

While he showed great courage in March by signing a letter criticizing President Ceausescu, he was previously regarded as a faithful supporter of the regime. He had been a party member since 1936, served in many important posts, and was chairman of the UN General Assembly in 1967. It is possible, however, that his image reflected the fact that the only way to survive within the regime was to remain silent. The letter marked the first evidence of real dissent within the party, as opposed to that among intellectuals. It was signed by six former party officials and was published in the West, causing outrage in Bucharest.

It criticized the management of the economy, demanded that the exporting of food should stop, and said: "The international community is reproaching you for non-observance of the Helsinki Final Act, which you have signed yourself."

It attacked the plan to demolish thousands of villages, the decree forbidding Romanians to have contact with foreigners, the construction of a huge civic centre in Bucharest, abuses by the Securitate, compulsory Sunday labour, and systematic tampering with mail and telephone-tapping.

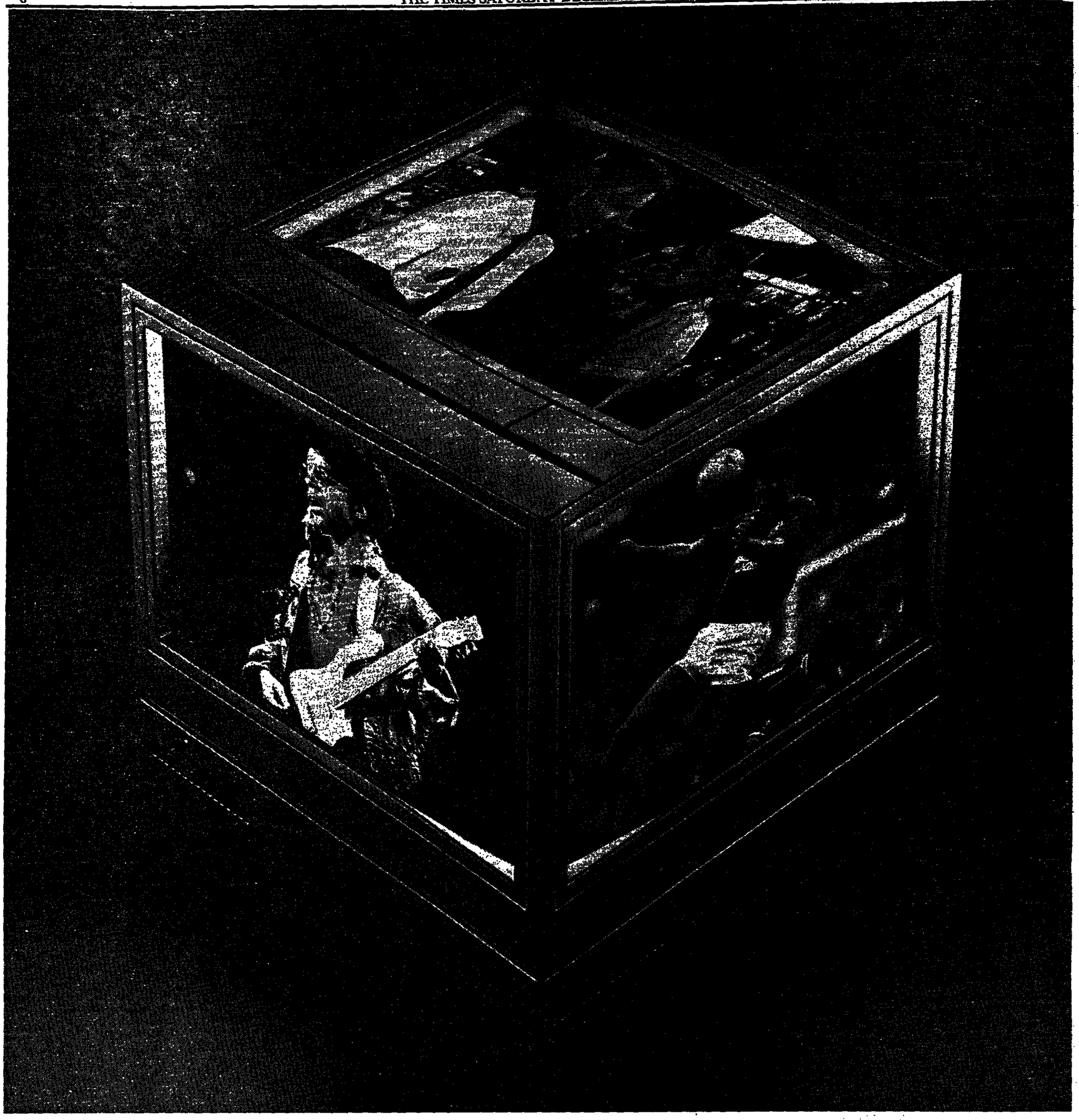
The letter ended by offering to participate in a dialogue with Mr Ceausescu if he dropped the villages plan, restored constitutional guarantees of rights, and stopped food exports. Mr Ceausescu's response was characteristically tough, and reports circulated in Hungary that Mr Manescu was being denied adequate food and medical treatment and that his life was in danger.

Mr Manescu was born in Ploiesti on February 8, 1916, the son of a Romanian government official, and served in the military until the late 1950s and reached the rank of lieutenant-general. In 1960 he was appointed a director in the Foreign Ministry and also became ambassador to Hungary.

The following year he became Foreign Minister, and in 1965 a member of the Central Committee. In 1967 he was elected chairman of the UN General Assembly, receiving 112 of the 113 votes cast.

Two years later he became a member of the Defence Council.

He was replaced as Foreign Minister in 1972 and became vice-chairman of the National Council of the Socialist Unity Front the following year. He was removed from the Defence Council in 1974, served as chairman of the commission for foreign policy from 1975 to 1977, and then became Ambassador to France for a short period. He lost his seat on the Central Committee in 1984.



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Fugitive general still at large

Troops battle on to suppress Noriega supporters

From Martin Fletcher, San José, Costa Rica

Widespread fighting continued for a third day in Panama yesterday with General Manuel Noriega still at large, 24,000 US troops still battling to suppress the few thousands Noriega loyalists and opposition to the US invasion hardening among other central American nations.

One report yesterday suggested US troops may have missed the dictator by minutes when they seized one of his homes on the coast near Panama City soon after the invasion began on Wednesday.

Cigarettes were still burning in the ashtrays and women's purses had been left behind. Soldiers who entered the house said they found bizarre evidence of occult practices and black magic.

Panama City itself was in a state of chaos, with continued sporadic gunfire particularly in the poorer pro-Noriega districts, extensive damage to buildings and, in the absence of any form of policing, unimpeded looting in the downtown business area despite the imposition of a dawn to dusk curfew. One hospital reported that its morgue was full as the civilian death toll rose.

Fighting was reported in the central Panamanian areas of Colón, San Miguelito and Rio Hato. Noriega loyalists were said to be in control in rural areas, particularly in the mountainous north.

US military spokesmen emphasized yesterday that they were devoting enormous amounts of time and resources to find General Noriega.

One American success was the seizure of a sizable cache of Soviet-made arms in the coastal region of Rio Hato. The cache included around 1,000 AK-47 machine guns with large supplies of ammunition and was upheld by the Americans as evidence that they are fighting a determined opposition with a state of the art arsenal.

Figures issued by the US Southern Command in Panama yesterday said 20 US soldiers had been killed so far, 202 wounded and two were missing. One US civilian has been killed. A spokesman said 122 enemy had been killed, but did not say how many of these were members of the Panama Defence Forces.

Nearly 1,500 Panamanian prisoners of war had been taken, 10,000 weapons had been confiscated as well as 25 planes, 15 armoured vehicles and five boats.

A few American civilians remained unaccounted for but many of those abducted as hostages by pro-Noriega forces had by yesterday been released.

The placing of a $1 million bounty on Noriega by President Bush produced a torrent of tips. One official said the US authorities had received tips that he was in three different countries.

US troops, meanwhile, have surrounded both the Cuban and Nicaraguan embassies in Panama City in case he is hiding inside, prompting the Sandinista regime in Nicaragua to surround the US embassy in that country with heavily armed troops.

The Sandinistas have promised reciprocal action if the US tries to storm the Panamanian embassy.

Other more moderate central and southern American nations have joined criticisms of the US invasion with the Organization of American States voting overwhelmingly to condemn it in Washington.

Some of the strongest language has been employed by the Peruvian Government which has now announced that it will no longer go to the drugs summit President Bush is scheduled to attend in Colombia in February.

Ironically, given that it was Noriega's drugs trafficking which first aroused US ire against him, that summit – an important part of Washington's crusade against drugs – is now in jeopardy. Bolivia said there was little point in attending if Peru, one of the region's largest cocaine producers was not present. Colombia itself had expressed concern at the US invasion.

In neighbouring Costa Rica President Arias has now condemned the invasion in much stronger terms than his earlier modest criticism and has said that it is too early to decide whether to recognize Señor Guillermo , the new US-backed leader of Panama.

Costa Rican forces near the border with Panama have been also been placed on full alert and some Panamanians have fled to Costa Rica though it is not yet clear whether US troops have engaged in fighting in the pro-Noriega north of Panama.

There were some signs of normality beginning to return to Panama City yesterday. Señor Endara is attempting to assemble a new, loyal Panamanian defence force to police the city. The Panama Canal closed for the first time in 75 years on Wednesday, was reopened to limited traffic yesterday and US officials said they expected it to be operating as normal by the weekend. US forces have secured the international airport and normal flights may be allowed in shortly.

The luxury Marriott Hotel has been recaptured though it has no water, electricity or staff. US officials are hoping to use it as a base for those representatives of the US media who have been allowed in to Panama.

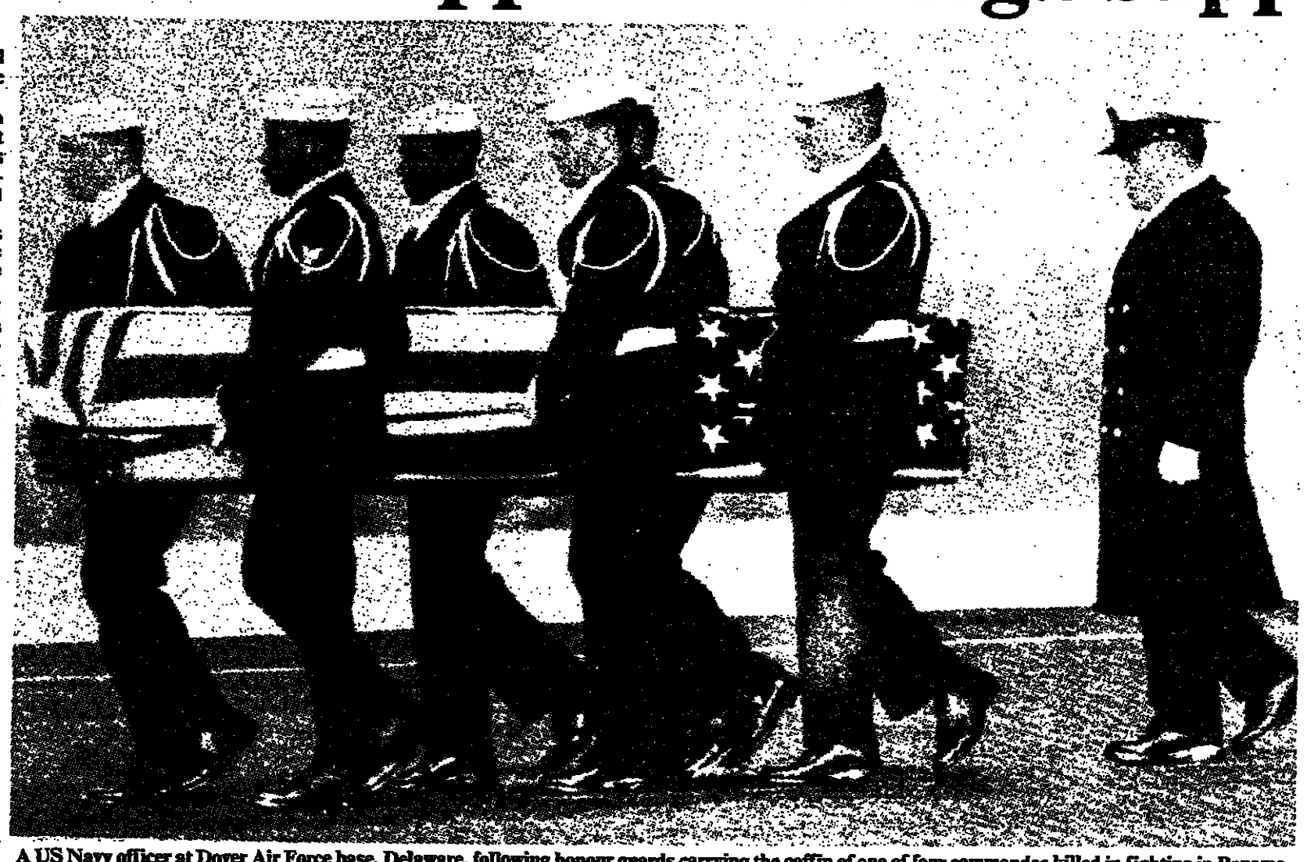
So far the have been confined to the Howard airport base.

● **Temuco, Chile:** A bomb exploded in the entrance of the Chilean-US Cultural Institute, causing extensive damage. The attack was apparently launched in retaliation for the US invasion of Panama (AFP reports).

Hours before the explosion late on Thursday a spokesman for the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front said the leftist guerrilla group would carry out attacks on US facilities in Chile.

The explosion at the institute in Temuco, 372 miles south of Santiago, damaged the entrance to the building, its libraries and other rooms.

No one was in the building when the explosion occurred, they said.



A US Navy officer at Dover Air Force base, Delaware, following honour guards carrying the coffin of one of four commandos killed in fighting in Panama.

Havana (AFP) – President Castro of Cuba denounced the US invasion of Panama as a humiliating slap at the Soviet Union's policy of peace with the West. He scorned European countries supporting the invasion. Demonstrations continued for the second day yesterday outside of the US interests section in Havana.

Bush draws criticism from Congress members over 'bungled' invasion

From Susan Ellicott
Washington

America's failure to capture General Manuel Noriega and control widespread looting in Panama was criticized yesterday by Congress, two days after President Bush ordered in US troops.

With the wily military leader still at large, the likelihood dwindled of a swift US withdrawal. Some members of Congress doubted that Mr Bush and President Endara, the new United States-supported leader, would be able to meet their agreed one-month deadline for the pull-out of American forces. The politicians called for a US withdrawal as quickly as possible.

Mr Bush, seeking to portray the US military gains as a political step forward, said on Thursday that the military operation in Panama was "pretty well wrapped up" but that US American forces would remain in the country for "as long as it takes" to restore order and capture General Noriega.

As he spoke, US television showed film of the flag-draped coffins of four American sailors carried off an aircraft in the state of Maryland. Yesterday, a fourth military aircraft brought wounded American soldiers back for surgery.

Mr Bush received widespread support for his decision to send in the military immediately after the event but, as the number of American deaths has risen to 21 soldiers, 208 wounded and two missing, the public and politicians have started to question whether the invasion was bungled.

Mr Les Aspin, the Democrat chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, said: "You could have this thing turn real sour for George Bush real quick." Mr Aspin said he saw a need for the troops to remain in Panama, but "would not be surprised to see them there on Christmas eve a year from now". He noted that American military police units did not leave Grenada for 18 months, and combat troops remained on the island for two months after a United States invasion.

Some Panama experts also consider that the US Government has in public underestimated General Noriega's ability to elude capture. Mr Bush said in a televised address on Thursday that he doubted the General would last long if he had fled into the jungle. The former military strongman, however, is trained in jungle warfare and is believed to have fled with bodyguards and perhaps even his crack unit, Battalion 2000.

Although Panamanians appear to have welcomed the US action to oust their military leader, public opinion could turn against Washington as more Panamanians are killed and injured in sniper fire.

One dependent of a former US diplomat, who left Panama last May, said that American forces might be required to shoot to ward off the looters and would risk a backlash from Panamanian civilians if any were injured or shot dead.

Meanwhile, Señor Endara said the US forces would remain in his country until he had established an army loyal to him.

● **GENEVA:** The World Council of Churches and affiliated organizations said yesterday they were "outraged" at US intervention in Panama (AP reports). In a strongly-worded letter to Mr Bush, the church leaders said military force to address political differences would contribute to further loss of life and jeopardize the basic human rights of the Panamanian population.

Mugabe wins a hollow victory

From Jan Raath
Harare

President Mugabe of Zimbabwe yesterday beat off a determined challenge against his newly merged party's policy cornerstones of socialism and the one-party state. But it was a hollow victory. According to senior party sources both items are "definitely on ice".

The closing session of the five-yearly congress of the ruling Zanu (PF) yesterday sealed the unity agreement signed two years ago between Mr Mugabe and Mr Joshua Nkomo, leader of the Zapu party, based among the Ndebele-speaking people of western Zimbabwe.

The merger marks the end of 23 years of bitter rivalry between the two organizations, spilling over into a violent insurgency in the west of the country for five years that marred the early days of the country's first decade of independence.

Mr Mugabe is now head of a political organization that dominates the entire country, leaving no room for any serious challenge to the party's authority in elections due to be held next year.

The party will go into its poll campaign on the basis of a constitution espousing both socialism and "the establishment of a one-party state".

But both issues are radically different from the way they were set out at the last congress five years ago.

According to delegates, Mr Mugabe had to spend a full hour during closed-door debate on the constitution on Thursday night defending the need to retain the terms "Marxist-Leninist" in the document after vigorous attacks on the policy.

But Mr Mugabe had emphasized that socialism in Zimbabwe would be only "guided" by Marx and Lenin. The constitution adds to its definition on socialism that it will be "firmly based on the historical, cultural and social experience" of the country.

That experience, observers point out, consists of Zanu (PF) paying lip service to socialism while the party's leaders, with the exclusion of Mr Mugabe, have enthusiastically, sometimes grossly, adopted the practices of a sophisticated, market-oriented economy.

Israel's chief rabbis plan to snub Tutu

From Richard Owen
Jerusalem

Archbishop Desmond Tutu, the Archbishop of Cape Town, arrived in Israel yesterday amid fears here that he would increase the growing Arab Christian support for Palestinian demands for an independent state as a solution to the Middle East conflict.

As Archbishop Tutu flew in, protests erupted in Bethlehem, on the occupied West Bank, over the death yesterday of a 12-year-old local boy, who was shot in August by a Jewish settler whose car had been stoned by Arab youths. The boy's death after four months on a life-support machine, set off stone-throwing and a general strike in Bethlehem.

Troop reinforcements moved into Manger Square as Arab Christians, led by the Roman Catholic patriarch Michel Sabbah, a Palestinian Arab, completed preparations for Christmas ceremonies in the Church of the Nativity, which Archbishop Tutu is to attend.

In the West Bank village of Jaba, troops shot dead a stone-throwing youth, and also killed an Arab woman who had tried to stab Israeli soldiers as they entered her home during house-to-house searches for a Palestinian activist.

Despite pleas from the Israeli Ministry of Religious Affairs, Israel's chief rabbis – one Ashkenazi and one Sephardi – announced that they would refuse to receive Archbishop Tutu during his visit.

Mr Eytan Aizman, a spokesman for the chief rabbis, declined to give a detailed reason for the snub, but said: "If the chief rabbis like someone, they meet him. If they don't, then they don't."

Archbishop Tutu, officially here on a private pilgrimage at the invitation of the Anglican Church, has angered Israeli officials already by drawing a parallel between blacks in South Africa and Arabs in the occupied West Bank and Gaza, where an uprising against Israeli rule is entering its third year.

He is to visit Yad Vashem, the Holocaust memorial in Jerusalem, to show his support for the existence of the Jewish state.

But Israelis fear that he will also increase support for the *intifada* among Arab Christians, who form less than 10 per cent of the Palestinian population and have in the past been ambivalent about joining a revolt which is dominated by Palestinian Muslims.

Tomorrow Archbishop Tutu will visit Beit Sahour, or Shepherds Fields, near Bethlehem, where the birth of Christ was announced to shepherds watching their flocks.

The village has become one of the centres of the *intifada* and, in an unprecedented joint demonstration, the three Christian patriarchs of Jerusalem went to Beit Sahour in October to show solidarity with Christian residents who were being punished by the Israeli authorities for refusing to pay taxes.

Israeli officials are imposing strict security for the visit in an attempt to ward off Palestinian "nationalist" demonstrations near the army base, where household goods confiscated by troops during the Shepherds Fields tax rebellion are being stored.

Mandela stays in prison

From Gavin Bell, Johannesburg

The South African Government has announced that Nelson Mandela, the black nationalist leader, will not be released at Christmas, but speculation is mounting that he will be freed early in the New Year.

A statement by the Bureau for Information said that in response to numerous press inquiries about Mandela, it wished to make clear "that there will be no developments in this regard during the festive season".

A recent meeting between Mandela and President de Klerk, who has promised to implement constitutional reforms in consultation with black leaders, led to rumours that the release of the veteran African National Congress leader was imminent.

Mr de Klerk has indicated that another meeting will take place next month. It is predicted that he will wait until Parliament convenes in February before freeing Mandela.

Mandela, aged 71, was transferred a year ago to the relative comfort of a warder's villa at Victor Verster prison in Cape Province. This week he was allowed for the first time to confer with ANC leaders in exile by telephone.

WORLD ROUNDUP

Boat people win refugee status

Hong Kong – Sixty-four Vietnamese boat people, classed as non-refugees by the Hong Kong Government, have had the decisions against them overturned by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. They can now expect resettlement in the West instead of the prospect of deportation to Vietnam (Jonathan Braude writes).

They are the largest single group to benefit from the UN group's power to grant refugee status, bringing to 103 the number of cases in which the organization has intervened in this way since the Government introduced its much criticized screening policy in July 1988. Meanwhile, tempers flared in the Sek Kong detention centre, where about 200 Vietnamese threw stones at police. A spokesman said the violence was brought under control. Four policemen were reported to have been injured and taken to hospital.

Embryo row settled

Melbourne – Australia's first legal battle between an estranged couple to determine custody of their embryos produced by *in-vitro* fertilization (IVF) ended yesterday when they agreed to give the seven frozen embryos to infertile couples (Robert Cockburn writes). The husband and wife, who expect to divorce next year, agreed in an out-of-court settlement to abandon their claims on the embryos. Their case, being heard in the Melbourne Family Court, was expected to set an Australian precedent after the world's first IVF embryo dispute, in the United States, which remains unresolved. The wife had claimed the right to be implanted with the embryos, challenging the law on divorce, because her new "*de facto*" husband has had a vasectomy.

Bhopal Act upheld

Delhi – The Supreme Court here yesterday upheld the validity of an Act of Parliament which aims to settle all compensation claims arising from the Bhopal gas leak without bringing prosecutions, despite a fierce campaign against the settlement of $470 million from the Union Carbide company (Christopher Thomas writes). The five-judge bench, in three separate but concurring judgments, directed the Government to continue to pay interim compensation to thousands of victims, five years after a toxic chemical, methyl isocyanate, leaked from a pesticides plant in Bhopal, owned by the Indian subsidiary of Union Carbide. About 3,000 died immediately. Since then another 1,500 have had slow and sometimes horrible deaths.

Ex-Bofors men guilty

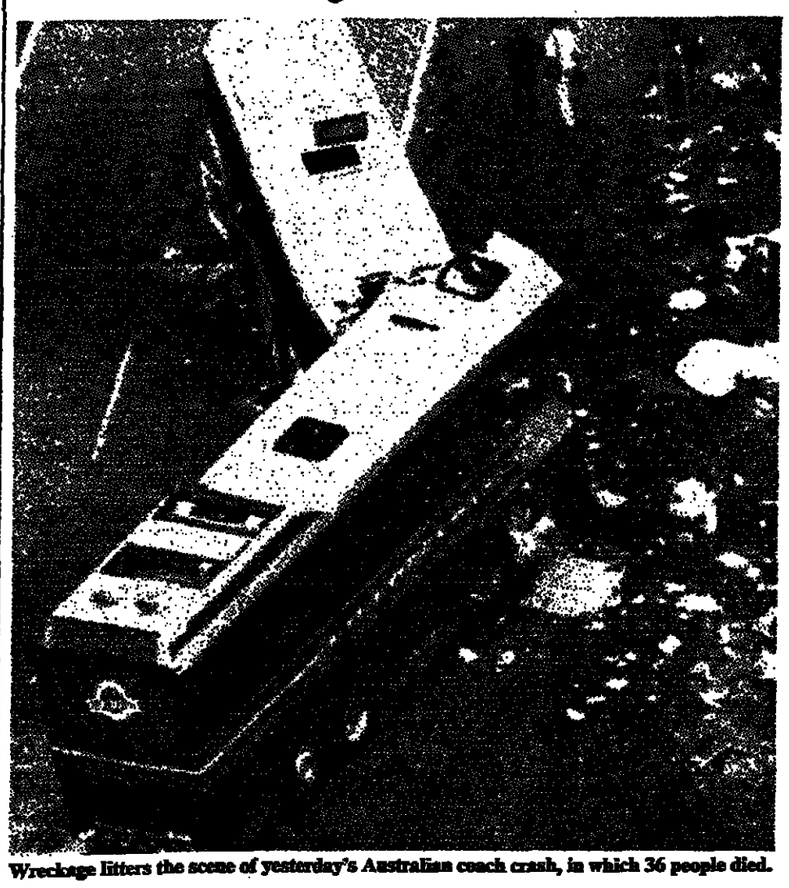
Stockholm (AFP) – Three former directors of Bofors, the Swedish arms firm, were given suspended jail terms yesterday for unlawfully exporting more than 150 ground-to-air Robot missiles to Bahrain and Dubai. Court sources said the missiles had been sent to the two Gulf countries between 1979 and 1981 under an export licence fraudulently giving the arms destination as Singapore. Bahrain and Dubai were on a list of several countries to which Sweden had banned the sale of arms. The court ruled that the three men had deliberately deceived the Swedish Government and its arms inspectorate. It ordered Nobel Industries, the Bofors parent group, to pay a fine of 11 million crowns (£1.1 million) because it had benefited financially from the deals.

Draft-dodging trial

Rome – The husband of Princess Caroline of Monaco, Signor Stefano Casiraghi, will go on trial for illegally avoiding national military service (Paul Bompard writes). A Milan magistrate decided on Thursday to proceed with the trial of Signor Casiraghi and 74 other men accused of having bribed army personnel and doctors to avoid compulsory military service. The pre-trial investigation said that a restaurant owner, the suspected "fixer", used his contacts with officers in the Army to arrange fictitious medical reasons for avoiding military service.

Britons injured in Australian coach disaster

From Robert Cockburn, Melbourne



Wreckage litters the scene of yesterday's Australian coach crash, in which 36 people died.

Thirty-six people were killed yesterday in Australia's worst road accident, when two coaches collided on the first day of the Christmas holiday break.

The coaches crashed near Kempsey in New South Wales, in pre-dawn fog on the Pacific Highway, which links Sydney with Brisbane. Last night 39 of the injured were still in hospital. In a coach crash in October on the Pacific Highway, north of Kempsey, 20 people died.

Dick Cutler, an ABC radio reporter, said: "The two buses are sort of welded together. They've hit and the first five metres of each bus is merged into the other." One rescue worker said: "I don't know how many bodies are in there – there are just lots of bits."

Several Britons were among the injured. Police said Chris Sidwell, aged 22, and Mr Colin Hardy, aged 23, were in a serious but stable condition. Miss Clare Kendall, aged 24, of Stevenage, and Mr Daniel McDermott, believed to be from London, were said to be "serious".

Scenes of the dead, and the injured being attended on the roadside among spilled luggage and Christmas gifts, has provoked public outrage at the state of Australia's narrow main highways and poor driving standards. Mr Bob Hawke, the Australian Prime Minister, offered his condolences to the families of those killed. Three New South Wales ministers visited the scene, including Mr Bruce Baird, the Transport Minister, who announced a 56mph speed limit for all lorries and coaches on state highways from yesterday.

This year 131 people have died on the Pacific Highway. Many people are now afraid to drive after dark because of the aggressive tactics of coach and lorry drivers.

The crash came the day after a crisis meeting between the Federal government and the states failed to agree on a national road safety plan that would include a uniform national speed limit and blood-alcohol limit.

Rescue workers fought throughout the day yesterday to free victims trapped in the wreckage of the coach. A baby was found alive, wedged behind a seat, and a police sergeant on the scene discovered his own mother among the dead.

This is the busiest weekend of the year on the roads as Australians visit families for Christmas. The roads are more crowded this year because of the four-month-old domestic airline dispute.

TIMES DIARY

SIMON BARNES

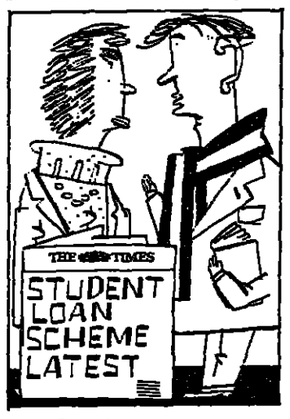
There are times when it becomes quite clear that this column is not, after all, a vehicle for my own quirks of mind, but a far greater vehicle for the bizarreries of the entire nation, for Brits are especially bizarre when they turn to sport. Take two letters that arrived, unsolicited, in the same post with the Christmas cards and press releases. Rohan Alce begins uncompromisingly: "Yesterday three sets of twins were included in the 12 players who turned out for Danehill (East Sussex) Minors Under-12 team in the Crowborough and District Minor League." He continues: "Two of the pairs of twins (my sons included) have been playing for the team for about three seasons, progressing through under-10s and under-11s. Recently a third pair of twins signed on and yesterday was the first time that all six twins played." And he concludes with the immortal line: "Is this a record? Danehill beat High Brooms 4-2."

Beside this was a letter from a regular correspondent, Philip Peabody, master of Wells Cathedral Junior School. In the season of goodwill and the World Cup draw, he selected a team "which might allay the fears of the citizens of Sardinia . . . and play heavenly football". The team is: Grace (Colchester); Joseph (Wimbledon), Abraham (Cardiff), Daniel (Cardiff), Abel (Chester); Archdeacon (Barnsley), Bishop (Manchester City); Wise (Wimbledon), Angell (Stockport), Deane (Sheffield United), Comfort (Middlesborough). He adds: "Remi Moses can lead them out, Dave Sexton can manage, Jimmy Gabriel can train and Gary Emmanuel coach."

The latest *Wisden* is full of revolutionary ideas which could dilute some of the nationalism, seriousness and hostility that attend so much of modern international cricket. One intriguing suggestion is the formation of composite teams during Test series, so that two mixed England-Australia sides could play each other in a cheery festival atmosphere. The suggestion is embedded in the brand new almanac, which bears the date 1888 – the latest facsimile from Willows Publishing. It reports exactly such a match, which was played in Australia between the Smokers and the Non-Smokers, and featured a then record innings total of 803, scored, smugly enough, by the Non-Smokers.

The year was also the first centenary of the MCC (the bicentenary was, of course, last year), and *Wisden* records two matches to mark this: one between 11 Gentlemen of the MCC against 18 Veterans of the Club Over 40 (a high-scoring draw) and another, more seriously contested, between MCC and Grounds (that is to say, including professionals) and England. MCC included Grace, Hornby and Lord Hawke, while England, who won by an innings, had Shrewsbury, Stoddart and Hornby's flickering, run-stealing partner, Barlow.

BARRY FANTONI



'For a change it's a bank statement I welcome'

A late Christmas present idea: a BBC video entitled *The Official History of Aston Villa FC*. It includes 85 minutes of wonder, and the jacket says it all: "Aston Villa is a sporting institution. In their famous claret and light-blue shirts, Villa teams have scaled the heights and plumbed the depths." The picture on the cover features a claret-and-blue side – Burnley. It is their championship side of 1959-60. The jacket has been reprinted. A BBC spokesman said: "The funny thing is that nobody at Villa has said anything."

There have been many more suggestions for sportsperson of the decade to follow our dead horse (the great Dawn Run) and remarkable one-legged waterskier. These include a conker champion, "anyone who has run with Zola Budd", and Hurricane Higgins. But instead, I am breaking my own rules in a high-handed fashion that will not surprise regular readers. I have decided to invent a new award for sports teams of the decade, and am nominating two myself. Each will receive a magnum of Taittinger when posts permit. Let us salute, then, the British Ski Jumping Team and its heroic manager Tim Ashburner, and the Tricycle Team that lined up alongside the bikers to contest the national 100km road team trial, and, what is more, beat some of the bicycle boys home.

He said he would not change until "pears hung on poplar trees". Now Birnam Wood has come to Dunsinane. Unlike Macbeth, Ceausescu did not have the courage to face his nemesis, but tried to flee the people's wrath, leaving his henchmen in the lurch. The "hero of the nation's heroes" tried to jump the wreckage of his regime, leaving behind jubilation and contempt.

The future for Romania looks brighter than for 40 years. Ceausescu's deliberate impoverishment of the country, the destruction of its heritage and the suffocation of its traditional way of life are over. But the tyrant has left a bitter legacy: the joy of his fall will be mixed with mourning for those who died defying him. Ceausescu's regime had ruined the economy and left little behind on which to build.

Ceausescu claimed that he was building monuments and an infrastructure for Romania which would last a thousand years. But the concrete monuments to his self-glorification will be less than useless as the basis for reconstruction. It was typical of his derangement that 18 months after their completion, Ceausescu had left empty the buildings lining the Boulevard of the Victory of Socialism. His "Palace of the People" at the head of the boulevard was all but complete. It was built on the ruins of 40,000 people's homes.

Even if Romanian people do not imitate the demolition of the Bastille, this symbol of their enslavement will be no use to them. They will enjoy their freedom in a bankrupt and desolate country. Years of irrational policies and silent protest strikes have left little viable industry, and the collective farms are a shambles. Ceausescu may have left no foreign debt, but only by plundering the country to repay it.

The mark of his reign on the people will not be easily removed. Over the last few years, the forced breeding policy in squalid conditions has led to the birth of children to undernourished mothers and to miscarriages and illegal abortions. Elena Ceausescu was particularly hated for her role in the drive to boost the population from 23 million to 30 million by the end of the decade.

In the confusion of Ceausescu's fall, there is no obvious successor – as he intended. A provisional government may be headed by Corneliu Manescu, the former foreign minister and leader of the six "Muscovite" members of the Romanian Communist Party who in January this year appealed to Ceausescu to reverse his policies. But though they risked their lives in the twilight of Ceausescu's tyranny, Manescu, Silviu Brucan and the others are old communists – aged between 70 and 94 – who played their part in the "building of socialism" and of Ceausescu's dictatorship.

Ion Iliescu, a former student contemporary of Gorbachov at Moscow University, might make a more acceptable communist figurehead, but it is hard to see how the Romanian party can reconstitute itself after its degradation as an instrument of Ceausescu's dynastic tyranny. In any case, citizens' committees composed of uncompromised people are organizing themselves, and they will offer a democratic alternative.

The solidarity between the Romanian majority and the Hungarian and other minorities is a hopeful sign. Ceausescu's almost fascist rhetoric tried to play on ancient enmities but his oppression created a community of suffering, uniting all against his rule. The richest surviving folk culture in Europe, which only days ago seemed doomed by the systematizing bulldozers, now has a chance to flourish again in its Romanian, Magyar and gypsy forms.

The poet Mircea Dinescu has spoken to the Romanian people on the radio with typically moderate and appropriate words and it is tempting to see him as a Romanian version of Czechoslovakia's Vaclav Havel. However, the nihilist repression of Ceausescu's *Securitate* prevented any dissident organization on the model of Charter 77 appearing in Romania. Brave individuals, such as Dinescu and Doina Cornea, in Cluj, risked their lives by smuggling criticisms of the regime to Western radio stations. Now their courage has been matched by tens of thousands of anonymous heroes.

In the short term, co-operation between the Gorbachovian elements surviving in the Communist Party, the intellectual dissidents and the local committees is essential to the preservation of order and the functioning of the existing food rationing and energy supplies. It is winter, and Ceausescu's policy of exporting food and other essentials to subsidize his drive for "real communism" will leave a bitter legacy in the cold months ahead. There is a danger of chaos, leaving aside any spontaneous revenge against the secret police.

Western aid will be essential. Food and medicines are in short supply. The Soviet Union can help by halting the import of food from Romania and perhaps returning some of what it has received. Soviet assistance might calm the atmosphere among the Romanian-speakers of Moldavia, whose desire for reunion with Romania was dampened only because they feared Ceausescu more than they resented Soviet occupation.

The fall of the Ceausescus is a great day for the Romanian people. It is also a salutary purgation of Stalinism. Whatever his personal fate now, the ghost of Ceausescu's failure is already a grim premonition of what the future may have in store for his admirer, Deng Xiaoping. His fall will send shivers through the remaining "great leaders" in Cuba, China, Vietnam and North Korea.

Who still entertains illusions about their capacity for willing reform? Will the collapse of their regimes cost as many lives as Ceausescu sacrificed for nothing? What should the world do with them and their henchmen afterwards? "Will great Neptune's ocean wash this blood?"

The author is lecturer in modern history at Oriel College, Oxford.

Mark Almond on the vacuum left by Ceausescu's overthrow

Who will rule Romania?

Star that heralds a new dawn

As Eastern Europe continues in ferment, John Waine, Bishop of Chelmsford, sees the chance to re-create a continent in which Christian principles will rule

Christmas this year will be celebrated amid momentous events for Europe and the world. Hearts everywhere are stirred by the news of the crumbling of totalitarian regimes which for more than 40 years have held the nations of Eastern Europe in their grip. The tentative emergence of governments accountable to their people and anxious to shake off old orthodoxies and harsh oppression gives us hope that we are witnessing the birth pangs of a new European order.

The world community has been caught off guard and is struggling to relearn its political alphabet. Political leaders of East and West had grown accustomed to the reflex reactions of Cold War mistrust, and the slow thaw in international relations since the arrival of Mr Gorbachov had not prepared them for recent events.

We in the churches should perhaps have known better, first because of our professed belief in a God who works within a framework of history, and secondly, because our involvement in Eastern Europe should have enabled us to discern the signs of the times.

It is not always appreciated how significant a role the churches have played in keeping hope alive in the hearts of the oppressed. Individual acts of heroism have been the visible witness of their commitment to the pursuit of freedom. Less well documented has been the work of groups such as the Conference of European Churches, founded in 1959 in the darkest days of the Cold War, which has rekindled the vision of a single Europe and has steadfastly resisted the temptation to mirror the division of East and West. It has given East European churches access to information and has helped them to formulate the principles of democracy.

Furthermore, the churches have found themselves cast in the role of custodians of the national culture and identity of many East European nations. Roman Catholicism in Poland and Lithuania, and the Lutheran church in East Germany and Estonia have been inextricably bound up with cherished concepts of nationhood, while in Czechoslovakia the church has provided a network and the buildings for the sharing of views and the organizing of change. The church is well placed to influence a rapidly developing situation and to articulate the yearnings in East and West for a renewed social order.

Ahead lie such possibilities for Europe as until now seemed unattainable. Take for example the use to which we put our considerable material resources. For years, enormous sums have been required to maintain the military alliances of East and West, and this expenditure has been duplicated in many other parts of the world. In Britain alone, the defence budget for 1989-90 is £20billion – more than the amount allocated to education and not far short of that to be spent on health. On present policy, defence expenditure is due to rise in real terms.

Some of this money, of course, goes on pay, pensions, and so on, but 41 per cent of defence spending is devoted to weapons systems and equipment. We can seek to release some of this for the restoration of our common European traditions of caring and culture, of spiritual values and wide sympathies. Let us hope that those who take decisions on these matters will be moved by the spirit which has moved within the peoples of Eastern Europe, and not shackled by the fear and mistrust symbolized by the obscene and now redundant Berlin Wall.

The people of Eastern Europe have demonstrated that the heart of man is not to be dominated by totalitarian regimes, as the young in the West have shown that their idealism cannot be quenched by the relentless propaganda of consumerism. With their peaceful demonstrations and solemn vigils, the people have borne witness to the desire to pull down the walls of division. This is a powerful antidote to the enervating malaise which can afflict the individual, robbing him of the will to make a stand on any moral, political or social issue because of the overwhelming power of social forces.

But the building of a "common European home" requires practical expression in some everyday areas of life. For example, there must be a concerted effort to facilitate travel. Scheduled flights within Europe today cost more per mile than anywhere else in the world. What real hopes are there that the Channel tunnel will bring down the prohibitive cost of travelling a few miles to the Continent? What further action can we take if we are serious about growing together and pooling the concerns and interests of the many in such areas as social welfare, medicine, architecture, science, music and the establishment of peace and justice on the earth?

There are international links already – for example between academics, doctors and the clergy – but these tend to be élitist. The widening of opportunities for people to meet one another and to explore common purposes should be on the agenda of every cultural, religious, humanitarian and sporting body. The European single market of 1992 will soon be upon us, and we must not allow it to be the preserve solely of those in trade and industry; nor should it be seen primarily in terms of economic importance to the West. One does not have to be an ardent proponent of a federal Europe to recognize that such a convergence creates opportunities for sharing resources, both material and spiritual, which give expression to the hopes that many have nurtured in the dark and desperate days now past.

This sharing must not be seen simply in terms of the comparative affluence of the West and the duties and opportunities this presents. We have much to receive through our contact with those whose outward circumstances have been desperately reduced, but who have found inner resources with which to remain true to an ideal. Moreover, the resultant growing together will be crucial in handling the two-edged sword of nationalism, which has helped to keep hope alive, but could easily be used to open old wounds, as some comments about German reunification suggest.

We are witnessing the emergence of nations and peoples from servitude to freedom. We owe it to ourselves and our children to ensure that this freedom is the freedom to give and to receive, to accept and to be accepted, to make whole and to be made whole. Pray to God that we may be preserved from allowing the barren materialism of Marxist ideology to be replaced by the alluring but equally hollow and soulless materialism which characterizes much of the contemporary Western society.

We in the West have much to learn about achieving our own freedom, and we can learn from those who have for so long been imprisoned. The spirit of freedom which has been kept alive in the East needs to be translated, not into a new bondage to wealth and self-seeking, but into a freedom of spirit that is generous and compassionate, and consonant with the Christian roots of European culture. To worship in Prague this Christmas will be special indeed. It will be special for all of us as we celebrate the birth of the Prince of Peace with renewed faith and hope, conscious that the star in the East shines more brightly.

Self-seekers scheming behind the boredom

Peter Brimelow offers a transatlantic impression of the EC at work

New York

Americans are natural enthusiasts. The prospect of the European Community's single internal market being established by 1992 has got them jumping up and down and turning cartwheels in their innocent cheer-leading way. Recently my Manhattan-based employer dispatched me to investigate this inspiring subject in person. It was the first time I had brought myself to look closely at the workings of the Community since I left Britain as a student nearly 20 years ago.

So it was with a curious feeling of disassociation that I stood in the Palais de Congress in Strasbourg. The European Council meeting there was certainly an impressive spectacle: 3,000 journalists milling around with their complimentary travel bags full of gifts, comparing notes on local restaurants, eating free pâté off china plates and quaffing the two different wines that were on offer with every meal. So much for America's much-vaunted First Amendment. The most the press gets here is a plastic cup of coffee and a sticky bun.

On the other hand, it is unlikely that an American equivalent of the meetings of the European Council, which after all is supposed to be the Community's supreme decision-making forum, would be held in secret. Even Downing Street's official spokesman, an apparently much-loved figure whose gruff presence can be detected between the lines in many press accounts, speaks unattributably.

I was equally impressed by how hard the heads of government (reportedly) work. They conferred all of the first day through lunch and dinner – our last briefing was close to midnight – and for a full morning the next day, before adjourning to their various press conferences. A cynic might suspect that their civil servants were deliberately wearing them down.

Another shock to the visiting exile is the sheer range of fiddling bureaucratic Euro-issues, and the extent to which they monopolize the British press, rather as the extraordinary proliferation of burglar alarms on British houses surprises me but seems to have crept up on permanent residents unnoticed.

The future of the EC is of course a worthy and complex topic. But knowing this has not been sufficient to stem my overwhelming reaction: the whole thing is an unutterable bore.

The amount of energy successive British governments must have poured into this endless haggling with foreign politicians over the last twenty years is appalling. If such attention were paid to Britain alone, it would surely have been enough to produce the reforms necessary to take the country much of the way towards becoming a second Japan – which was not, when I last looked, part of any economic bloc or would-be superstate. Perhaps this haggling would be worth while if it had produced free trade, but the EC's largest achievement is still the common agricultural policy, which simply means that Britain is cut off from its traditional sources of cheap food.

The Byzantine subtlety of the Euro debate is obviously fascinating to many, but I rapidly lose patience with it, because its fundamental premises are so plainly flawed: there is no economic need for a European currency and common institutions, as the recent US-Canadian Free Trade Agreement demonstrated. Much of the debate is of disgustingly poor quality; there is, for example, no understanding of the difference between federalism, which requires entrenched protection for the component states, and outright unionism, which is what Brussels' constant groping for detailed powers over the member countries implies.

And, as always, too much of the debate is deliberately deceptive. Thus Michael Heseltine still feels he can get away with telling the helpless readers of *The Daily Telegraph* that "pooled sovereignty" does not imply federalism.

When I got back to New York, I telephoned Milton Friedman, the Nobel laureate economist and godfather of floating exchange rates. Last year he assured *Forbes* magazine that no government would ever give up control over its monetary policy. So how did he explain Europe's drive to monetary union?

Bah, humbug, was essentially his explanation. "It will blow up," he said of the ERM. "If you want to make money, sell francs and buy marks."

But remembering the scene in Strasbourg, I suspect something more is at work. What sociologists call "the new class", a coterie of politicians, civil servants, academics and their media hangers-on, really does exist. Like servants of Austro-Hungary's Habsburg dynasty, its loyalty is to itself, across national boundaries. And the polity it is busily creating is equally absurd.

The author is a senior editor of Forbes *magazine.*

A woman's a man for a' that

MATTHEW PARRIS

Harrumph! One does start harrumphing once one is forty. I only reached this age a few months ago, but it has begun already . . .

And now this! This latest of many recent harrumphs was provoked by a small news item in *The Times* last Friday. "Men and ladies ruled against" read the headline. The BBC is waging a war against sexism and has produced a new reference manual for programme-makers, with long lists of words to avoid and helpful suggested alternatives. "Businessmen", "policemen" and "taxmen" are out; "executives", "police officers" and "inland revenue staff" are in.

The principal bogey-person in all this is the speaker whose choice of name gratuitously assumes the sex of the individual referred to, where this is not known, or not germane. BBC journalists have been told to "reduce references which specify sex" by using androgenous alternatives or "turning a sentence round". The ice-person cometh – or, perhaps, here cometh the employee of the ice factory. Simple Simon met a pie-person. The language fascists are at it again.

So there I was, harrumphing vigorously, compiling a mental list of all the harmless words which must now lie trembling as they await the knock-at-the-door at three in the morning from the BBC, and conducting an argument in my own mind with the language fascists, when, to my irritation, they won the argument.

"If", my imaginary disputant said to me, "it's really such a trivial matter what words we use, then why are you so cross?"

And he (oops!) was right. I'm *man* (oops!) enough to admit it. Why *man* (oops!) the barricades against the irresistible? To disturb language is to disturb attitudes. That's why we get cross: because words are very dear to us: habits in themselves, they are closely linked to habits of thought and feeling, often secretly cherished. As well as reflecting these habits, they help create them.

If we had the word "barman" in our language but not the word "barmaid", I don't doubt that you could raise a cheer with the argument that it was unnatural for a woman to serve alcohol, just as we now have that gut feeling that a man should not do the job of an air hostess. It doesn't seem natural does it – I mean a *man* air hostess? It's a similar job to a steward's, of course, or to what a military batman does. But it wouldn't seem right, would it, a *woman* batman?

For fun, however, I carried on compiling my list of offending words. The list is extraordinarily long. Hundreds, perhaps thousands, of important common and proper nouns wrongly imply that the individual named must be male. The suffix "man" crops up constantly – yet in only a tiny fraction of these cases should we really (if challenged) wish to imply gender. The task of changing them all seems monumental, and is probably hopeless.

Then, for the second time, my mind took an unexpected turn.

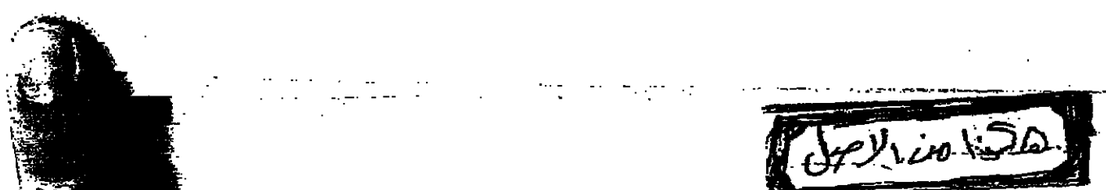
For don't you see where the argument leads? If "man" doesn't usually *mean* "man", then there is an easier way of de-sexing English than censoring all the "men" out of it: just change the meaning of the word "man"!

Now some will say that we already do, depending on the context; and we have all heard the jokey proviso that for the purposes of whatever is being discussed, man embraces woman. Semantic conservatives will insist that it does not sound odd for a chairman to be a woman. But it does. The other use of the word "man" continues to imply gender and it all jars and bewilders.

The solution is to abolish the other use! So how, then, would we imply male gender in that minority of cases where we do wish to? Easy. Use a different word. There are plenty around. What about "male" for instance? Many people seem to think it acceptable to refer to women as "females" so why should anyone complain about being a "male"?

The BBC should lead the way. It should declare that, from January 1, "man" is just another word for "person". "Winmin" should be abolished completely, and gender specified by the use of "male" or "female". To break the old verbal habits, a campaign of aggressively mould-breaking uses of the new vocabulary should be mounted: "The policeman told the court that her suspicions had been alerted when the young male grabbed at the barman's knickers, causing her to burst into tears."

Ah frailty, thy name is female!



THE TIMES

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone: 01-782 5000

AN END OF TYRANNY

The people of Romania, the most isolated, downtrodden and pitiable in all the countries of the Warsaw Pact, have taken command of their destiny and brought an end to the tyranny of President Ceausescu. There can be no one who did not rejoice with the Romanian announcer when he told his country on Bucharest radio yesterday: "We are carrying the first free broadcast on Romanian radio in 40 years. This was a revolution of children and youth. The dictator is overthrown."

Romania's was in every way a classic popular uprising, accomplished by people who could bear no more. From the tragedy and bloodshed of Timisoara last weekend grew a sense of outrage which penetrated every corner of the country and each of Romania's ethnic groups. Slowly, the tanks sent by desperate leaders against defenceless people were transformed from instruments of repression to symbols of liberation. The people stormed the Communist Party headquarters; the dictator fled in humiliation, portraits were smashed and there was dancing in the streets.

Joining, if only in spirit, in the jubilation of the Bucharest crowds, we must salute the courage of those who inspired the uprising by their resistance in Timisoara, those who continued it elsewhere against all the odds, and those who died. They include the Lutheran priest, Laszlo Tokes, whose individual resistance encouraged others to resist on his behalf, and whose fate is uncertain.

The Romanian nation has been known more for its stoic forbearance than for its defiance — and defiance was a dangerous and costly pursuit in the Ceausescus' Romania. The Ceausescu brand of communism was the most vicious to survive in the Europe of the 1980s. The few intellectuals who urged resistance were ruthlessly persecuted; workers' revolts were crushed and the leaders exterminated.

For all the courage of its instigators, however, the Bucharest uprising of December 21-22 could hardly have come to pass without the success of popular revolt across Eastern Europe over the past six months. President Ceausescu did all in his power to insulate Romania from the calls for freedom and democracy issuing from neighbouring countries. Romanians were never told of the momentous developments in East Germany, Bulgaria and Czechoslovakia; their pursuit of freedom and democracy was merely condemned obliquely as a "deviation from socialism".

Romanians were not told of the violent repression in their own country; after the killings in Timisoara; they were instructed only to observe the law. In the past week, the frontiers were closed to such effect that not even the most enterprising of Western journalists was able to enter the country. Romania was physically sealed off from the world to decide its future.

In attempting to ward off and then combat the anger of his people, President Ceausescu, alone of East European leaders, chose the "Tiananmen Square solution". He had watched his own generation of Warsaw Pact leaders cede ground to their political adversaries until little or nothing of their power remained. Only the Chinese had stemmed the tide. The former Romanian leader's failure to secure his power by force says much both about the illusions he harboured and about the distinctions between what is possible in Europe and in China.

Romania's successful uprising illustrates the impossibility in the late 20th century of any European country's remaining insulated from developments beyond its borders. Whether through Hungary, foreign radio stations or telephone calls from the world outside, Romanians have learnt the truth, and that truth impelled them, too, to resist. Freedom and democracy are words which could barely be whispered in Romania last week; but the concepts had remained alive. Yesterday those same words, which have resounded at every protest from East Berlin to Sofia, were on the lips of the crowds in Bucharest.

As Romania now tries to construct a new government more responsive to the wishes and needs of its impoverished people — a task which it must begin almost from scratch — the fate of President Ceausescu and of his country offers a salutary lesson to Britain, and to the West as a whole. A decade or so ago, President Ceausescu was a welcome guest at Western courts because — as a bold dissenter within the Warsaw Pact — he was deemed to be an "enemy of our enemy".

As the years passed, however, little thought was given to the harm that his policies were inflicting on his people. As with West Germany's *Ostpolitik*, Western interests were advanced in association with those of the leaders in the East and only secondarily with those of their people. Events in Eastern Europe, and now in Romania, show how the people of the East have none the less made their voice heard and their strength felt. If the West had been more attentive to them sooner, their suffering might have been shorter. In formulating a new policy for a new Europe in the East, it is a lesson for the West to remember.

THAT OTHER BETHLEHEM

As the *intifada* in Israel's occupied territories enters its third year, the question should be posed whether it has outlived its purpose. When the uprising started in December, 1987, it was viewed as a means of popular expression, through which frustrated, disenfranchised Palestinians could vent their spleen against Israel's occupying troops. For the first time it put Jerusalem under pressure from inside its disputed but well-defended borders. Since then, however, the pattern has significantly changed.

That it continues to trouble Israel's Defence Forces (IDF) is indisputable. Troops from one of the most strongly motivated armies in the world have had to be diverted from the front line to maintain the rule of law over schoolchildren. In the first place, given the critical international reaction, this has been demoralizing. In the second, it has weakened the Army's combat-readiness by re-deploying frontline troops for policing duties. The *intifada* has been Israel's Northern Ireland.

The parallel may be extended. As in Ulster, for instance, the nature of the violence has changed. The demonstrations by stone-throwing children which characterized the first year of the uprising have grown fewer. But their place has been taken by masked young men with guns who ambush patrols of unsuspecting soldiers, while disciplining their own people with a ferocity reminiscent of the IRA.

As in Northern Ireland there is no realistic chance of military victory. The IDF can try only to restrict the violence to a level generally considered to be "acceptable" in the hope that a political solution can be found. It is an unpleasant, dangerous and unsatisfying role for soldiers trained to fight in open battle.

Like British troops who are posted to Belfast, however, they have adjusted. They are better trained and more strictly disciplined than they were. With spending on the *intifada* absorbing about 4 per cent of the defence budget, it is a much resented and debilitating task, but one which the Army has by now learnt to live with. In several respects it has benefited from the experience.

Israel's civilian population has learnt to live with it, too. Indeed, it impinges little on their daily lives. Its main effect has been to shift opinion not towards the path of compromise and conciliation, but rather in the direction of the right-wing Likud party, led by the Israeli Prime Minister, Mr Yitzhak Shamir. Labour, under Mr Shimon Peres, lost four seats in the 1988 general election, nearly one year after the *intifada* started. According to one well-informed assessment, it would probably lose two more if a second election were held today.

The Jerusalem Smith Research Institute, which conducts a six-monthly poll of national opinion, has reported a steady hardening of attitudes towards the Palestinians. This has been reflected partly in the rising numbers of those who favour tough tactics in dealing with the Arab *intifada*. It can also be measured in the wider context of the Arab-Israeli peace process. Since the terrorist attack on a Tel Aviv-Jerusalem bus, in which 16 Israelis died last summer, the number supporting a deal over "land for peace" has actually fallen from 53 to 48 per cent.

Meanwhile, the main burden of the uprising is borne by the Arab youth who are behind it. Not only have many been killed, but in some parts of the territories as many as two out of three are now in prison. Throughout Gaza and the West Bank many more have lost their jobs in Israel as a result, either direct or indirect, of the unrest. There is not much joy and triumph in Bethlehem, where the death of a 12-year-old boy four months ago prompted a protest strike three days before Christmas.

The Israeli and Egyptian foreign ministers are due to meet the US Secretary of State, Mr James Baker, in Washington next month to discuss details of the American Middle East peace plan. They will also prepare the way (or so one hopes) for a subsequent meeting between Israelis and Palestinian representatives.

Whether the *intifada* will help or hinder this diplomatic process is unclear. Those leading it profess their determination to continue, but the *intifada* now probably hurts those taking part in it more than the Israelis against whom it is directed. To a large extent this always has been true. The Palestinian Liberation Organization should consider whether it now operates in the overall interests of its people.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Video evidence by sex victims

From Dr Raine Roberts

Sir, The recommendations (report, December 20) of the Advisory Group on Video Evidence that the evidence of child victims of abuse should be made more readily admissible in the crown court by the use of video recordings and that all children should be regarded as competent witnesses is greatly to be welcomed, and great credit is due to Professor Glanville Williams and John Spencer for their campaign to achieve this.

All of us working with sexually-abused children are concerned about the unnecessary stress on children of giving evidence in court and the difficulty in securing convictions even where there is a strong case.

I trust that the recommendations will be implemented speedily and will also apply to civil courts so that children's evidence will more often be heard there.

A major problem is that children are not believed when they deny that sexual abuse has occurred. Everyone is aware that children may be coerced or intimidated into staying silent about abuse and older children are often only too well aware of the disastrous consequences of disclosure, both for themselves and their families. Abuse is increasingly being disclosed by adults who have never been able to speak of it as children.

But this has led to a conviction amongst some doctors and social workers that abuse must be the cause of symptoms or behaviour which may have an innocent cause and value judgments are being made which are not based on objective evidence. This has led to over-diagnosis, especially in very young children. In these cases the child's testimony should also be heard and sometimes when the child says it has *not* been abused, it should be believed.

As Lord Justice Butler-Sloss said earlier this year: "One of the extraordinary elements about Cleveland was that there were relatively few children who told a story. The majority did not". I understand that only 45 of the original 121 Cleveland children have even now said that they have been abused (though some were interrogated at length by techniques which have been severely criticised) and that many continue to deny that sexual abuse was the cause of their symptoms.

In spite of this, there has been a concerted campaign this year to put about the view that most of the Cleveland children had been abused. Now that we are to hear more clearly the testimony of those many children who have been abused, we should also listen carefully to those who maintain that they have not.

Yours faithfully,
RAINE ROBERTS,
Clinical Director,
The St Mary's Centre,
St Mary's Hospital,
Oxford Road,
Manchester 13.
December 21.

Pulling the wool

From Mr Lawrence Wheatley

Sir, The method of removing a sweater that Ms Helen Corkery (December 7) ascribes to women has the effect of leaving it inside-out. Since this is the way that women wash sweaters (dirt from the line or the atmosphere will not sully the outside), it is clear that they expect to wear a sweater once only before washing.

Men, on the other hand, hope to wear their sweaters tomorrow, and tomorrow and tomorrow . . .

Yours faithfully,
LAWRENCE WHEATLEY,
Tregea,
Lower Upton,
Bude,
Cornwall.
December 7.

From Mr Colin Drury

Sir, A man gets out of a sweater by the easiest means — pulling it over his head — because he is lazy: so my wife tells me, anyway.

A woman does the job more carefully, not because she wishes not to harm the garment, but because she doesn't want to spoil her *hair*. That's my version, anyway.

Yours faithfully,
COLIN DRURY,
Charterhouse-in-Southwark,
40 Tabard Street, SE1.
December 8.

From Mr E. A. Wells

Sir, Whilst I cannot advance any reason for the difference between the sexes which Ms Helen Corkery has observed, I can offer one piece of evidence of its antiquity. In the village church of St Illide (Cantel) in France there is a delightful carving on a misericord of a man removing his shirt by precisely the method she describes.

This would appear to establish both that men have used the hand on the neck method at least since the 15th century and that it is a practice not confined to knitwear.

Yours faithfully,
E. A. WELLS,
20 Station Road,
Ilminster,
Somerset.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (01)782 5046.

Legal aspects of Panama invasion

From Mr E. Lauterpacht, QC

Sir, The media show a commendable concern with the international legality of the action taken by the United States in Panama (reports, December 21, 22). Unfortunately the presentation by the United States of several legal reasons for its continued action has exposed it to proper criticism of the weaker ones and insufficient appreciation of the dominant and valid one.

It is no justification for invasion of one state by another that a national of the invading state has been killed there or that the lives of others of its nationals may be at risk there. Nor does the character — even criminal — of a country's leader, or even the possibility of some future breach of a treaty, validate such action. And the reference to Panama's prior "declaration of war" is at best somewhat technical.

What really matters is that the United States has acted in support of the democratic process — a concept of internationally recognized relevance. The United States has replaced a leader who ruled without electoral support by one whose credentials for the position rest upon success at the ballot box — a success then forcibly frustrated by General Noriega.

What matters in law is not the technical propriety of the United States action at its inception but whether the Government of Panama itself now regards that action as lawful.

For this purpose the proper representatives of Panama are those who have been democratically elected. There is a world of difference between a situation where an invading state secures the approval of a puppet regime created by itself and a situation, such as the present one in Panama, where the new regime is the product of Panama's own electoral processes.

The suggestion that this kind of approach may license intervention by one state in the internal affairs of any other said to be failing in its adherence to democracy should not be a cause for alarm. If the facts warrant the action and it is followed by genuine elections, preferably under international supervision, the intervention should not be subject to criticism.

It would be a sad day for international law if its content and application failed to reflect its association with fundamental political principle.

Yours etc.,
E. LAUTERPACHT (Director),
Research Centre for International Law,
University of Cambridge,
5 Cranmer Road,
Cambridge.

Ruling on refugees

From Dr P. J. Hayward

Sir, Woodrow Wyatt's article, "Too few — but admire the Cabinet's courage" (December 21), is a timely reminder to us all.

By granting passports to up to 50,000 Hong Kong heads of families, the Government has taken a first and small step along the road of honour for Britain and justice for the people of Hong Kong.

Those remaining in the territory are to be handed back to a totalitarian communist state in 1997 without the option of self-determination. This is quite out of keeping with Britain's role as a leading democratic nation. The only honourable solution is to extend the right of entry to still more Hong Kong residents.

If members of Parliament do not relish this they have only themselves to blame for not insisting on a more satisfactory and democratic outcome to negotiations with China over the future of the British crown colony.

Yours faithfully,
P. HAYWARD,
103 Solefields Road,
Sevenoaks, Kent.
December 21.

From Mr Willy Lim

Sir, The furore in Parliament over the proposed granting of passports to 225,000 Hong Kong residents just proves how short-sighted members of Parliament are. It is important that this short-sightedness does not become widely ingrained.

Having lived and worked in Hong Kong for five years, I can vouch for:

1. Hong Kong offers, on average, a higher quality of life than that in the UK for a much lower cost. Wages are comparable, but the cost of goods and services is lower on account of greater competition and efficiency in Hong Kong.
2. The propensity to save in Hong Kong is very high (as it is in most Chinese-dominated countries such as Taiwan and Singapore) and the average Hong Kong family has substantial assets in cash, stocks, bonds and real estate. One recent estimate put this at $1 million per family. In short, the Hong Kong Chinese do not depend on welfare or subsidies from the state.
3. Hong Kong Chinese are just about the most hardworking and diligent people in the world. They are flexible, adaptable and are never afraid of rolling up their sleeves. The family fabric is strong and social discipline is high. Petty crimes are hardly heard of and drug abuse is minimal. There is no religious bigotry.

These are the reasons why Canada, France, Australia and recently Singapore and Taiwan are offering residence to the Hong Kong Chinese.

Yours sincerely,
WILLY LIM,
Security Pacific Hoare Govett Ltd,
4 Broadgate, EC2.

From Miss Karen L. Sturtivant

Sir, Dr Wolfgang Fischer (December 18) falls into the error of supposing that because his Austrian father in 1938 had suffered economically he would not now be classed a refugee. However, since his father's business and home had been confiscated it seems that he most certainly had suffered persecution and so would be given refugee status today, under the 1951 Convention.

On the other hand someone who in 1938 simply reckoned that life would hold more opportunity in England than in Austria would not be given such status. That is the difference between a refugee and an economic migrant. A refugee is one who fears persecution.

Generally speaking, to be persecuted is to be on the receiving end of treatment worse than that experienced by the generality of one's fellow men. This is not the condition of the entire population of Vietnam, any more than it is of the entire population of East Germany, and it is simply not credible that even as many as 40,000 Vietnamese (those at present in the Hong Kong camps) *all* have individual reason to fear persecution.

I work with refugees and would be among the first to demand fair dealing; I will not, however, debase their problems, or my language, by claiming that all who seek entry are refugees.

Yours faithfully,
KAREN STURTIVANT,
Sturtivant & Co. (Immigration solicitors),
17 Bulstrode Street, W1.
December 18.

Poll tax register

From the Chief Executive of Brent Council

Sir, Mr David Walker (report, December 12) draws attention to Brent Council's considerable success in getting 99 per cent of the official estimates of adults in the borough on to the community charge register. I would have thought that praise for our efficiency would have been in order.

But no. Mr Walker states that "there must be some scepticism about the results". Why? Does he believe our officers are misrepresenting the position? Does he know something about Brent's population that our efficient and professional community charge officers don't?

An alternative explanation for our high rate is that we are efficient. The Office of Population Censuses and Surveys figure, with which our register can be compared, is itself an estimate. The most thorough official statistics on population are of course census figures. All subsequent figures are sophisticated estimates based on certain assumptions about the census figure. Quite obviously the older the census figure, the greater is the likelihood of inaccuracy in OPCS calculations.

Brent is a culturally diverse borough, with a very mobile population. It is thus a measure of the diligence of our staff that our register is so thorough. If there are inaccuracies in estimating the size of the adult population of Brent, they are more likely to be with OPCS figures than with our own.

Yours sincerely,
CHARLES WOOD,
Chief Executive,
London Borough of Brent,
Brent Town Hall,
Forty Lane,
Wembley, Middlesex.
December 13.

Fairness in law

From Mr Geoffrey D.A. Weddell

Sir, The High Court's decision on Tuesday (Law Report, December 20) to stop the prosecution of police officers involved in the Wapping dispute because of unfairness to them engendered by delay in the legal process throws into sharp relief the recent resolution by MPs to enable prosecutions against war criminals to be brought here (report, December 13).

The right to a trial without delay is contained in Magna Carta. Does Parliament intend to prevent the courts from exercising their discretion in favour of war criminals? What price fairness then?

Yours faithfully,
G. WEDDELL,
Top Floor,
2 Dr Johnson's Buildings,
Temple, EC4.
December 21.

An MP's duty

From Mr Derek Lewis

Sir, Frank Field says in his article, "Do a Kilroy? Not likely" (December 18), that "We are sent to Parliament to promote the interests of our constituents and to contribute to the public debate".

I may be old-fashioned, but I have always thought an MP was sent to Parliament as representative of his constituents to promote the national interest, and not as a delegate. Edmund Burke said to the electors of Bristol in 1774:

> Your representative owes you, not his industry only, but his judgement; and he betrays instead of serving you if he sacrifices it to your opinion.

Yours truly,
DEREK LEWIS,
74 The Bowls,
Vicarage Lane,
Chigwell, Essex.
December 19.

For and against Sunday trading

From the Director of the Oxford Street Association

Sir, Members of this association do not trade on Sundays in Oxford Street for the very reasons that Bernard Levin spells out so admirably on December 18. In his own words, "the tiniest rip in the fabric of the law encourages disintegration". Most retailers who need, and use, the law regularly, agree that they should not be the arbiters on which laws to observe and which to ignore.

But there is one important difference between unions and those who challenge the community charge on the one hand, and, on the other, retailers who flout the Sunday trading laws; it is the reaction of Government.

Reputable companies who respect the law are becoming increasingly impatient with competitors who steal business by opening on Sundays with apparent impunity. Local authorities, who are expected to pick Parliament's coals out of the fire, invariably plead limited resources as their excuse for inaction. It seems almost that the Government is covertly encouraging wholesale disregard for the law in the hope that reform of the Shops Act thus becomes urgent.

In the light of the recent ruling by the European Court, the Attorney General should take national action immediately, so that local authorities are guided and encouraged to be uniform and consistent. If Government is not firm on enforcement, ordinary citizens, as well as retailers, become confused and the rule of law falls into disrepute.

Yours faithfully,
HARRY SHEPHERD, Director,
The Oxford Street Association,
Eastgate House,
16-19 Eastcastle Street, W1.
December 19.

From Mr R. C. N. Morley

Sir, Bernard Levin is, of course, right. No one should deliberately flout the law, particularly when that law has been recently passed by Parliament, such as union legislation and the community charge. It is, however, very frustrating when one is dealing with an outdated law such as the 1950 Shop Act in relation to Sunday trading.

This Act was passed by Parliament in a bygone age when most people's way of life was totally different from today. Now over six million customers use convenience stores every Sunday, many located at garages and airports which did not exist in the fifties. A million videos are rented on a Sunday — the video was not even dreamed of 40 years ago.

Any Act which is now as irrelevant as this and which is openly disregarded by so many is a bad law and should be changed. Retailers are merely asking that they should be permitted to legally serve their customers when their customers wish to be served.

Yours faithfully,
R. C. N. MORLEY
(Finance Director),
Hamleys,
188 Regent Street, W1.
December 18.

Spirit of Christmas

From Mr Quentin J. Gelder

Sir, My friend Mr John Measures (December 21) is concerned about the introduction of a species of "Manx mouse" into the realm of Christmas confectionary. I am even more alarmed by the sign outside a local parish church, which appears to reflect some sinister interference with that bastion of British rectitude, Greenwich Mean Time. It reads: Christmas Eve. 8 p.m. — Midnight Mass.

I am, Sir, your very confused servant,
Q. J. GELDER,
Wyverns, 13 ZinZan Street,
Reading, Berkshire.

From Mr J. L. Turnock

Sir, Each year our pupils, staff and governors celebrate the Yuletide with a customary feast complete with boar's head and carol:

> The Boar's Head in hand bear I
> Bedecked with bays and rosemary
> And I pray you my masters be merry
> So many as in our company.

How many schools rejoice in such tradition?

Yours faithfully,
J. L. TURNOCK (Headteacher),
Worfield Endowed Primary School,
Main Street,
Worfield,
Bridgnorth, Shropshire.

From Mrs Sarah Barker

Sir, As I return from yet another shopping trip — with the prospect of more to come — a question crosses my mind: why does Father Christmas get all the kudos when it is Mother Christmas who does most of the work?

Yours faithfully — but tiredly,
SARAH BARKER,
29 Cuckoo Lane,
Hanwell, W7.
December 15.

From the Headmaster of Wellingborough School

Sir, On my way to visit some friends on Sunday morning I stopped at the post office to post two letters. Approaching the post box in the wall, I could see through the opening that the little door at the back was open, which meant that the mail was being shovelled into a sack.

Hoping to catch this unexpected collection, I hurried across the pavement and posted the letters, at which a voice from inside said: "Go away!"

Yours faithfully,
G. GARRETT, Headmaster,
The School, Wellingborough,
Northamptonshire.
December 18.

M3 extension route

From Mr Michael Adams

Sir, I do hope that it will be possible to avoid protracted public inquiries and further heated arguments about the route of the extension of the M3 around Winchester to the edge of Southampton (report, December 11).

My mind goes back to the furious controversy which raged in the 1960s about the route of the M40 Oxford motorway down the escarpment of the Chilterns near Watlington. A deep, bare, gleaming white cutting was eventually made but, thanks to the skill of the engineers and their expert use of local contours and thanks to the healing hand of time, the starkness of the cutting is now relieved with soft green.

Few local people (of whom I am, by birth, one) should now regard the motorway as an eyesore and countless of its users, I am sure, feel their view to be enriched by the beauty of the beech trees and junipers which the landscape artists have utilised to such good effect.

Nearer to Winchester I could comment similarly on the 19th-century chalk cuttings made by the engineers of the London and South Western Railway as they constructed their line to Southampton through the Hampshire downs, particularly in the vicinity of Micheldever.

Taking the short-term view is a weakness to which many conservationists are only too prone. I am confident that most British, including Hampshire, citizens and visitors to our shores in the mid-21st century will still be able to appreciate the beauty of the Winchester countryside even if the M3 is extended round the back of St Catherine's Hill.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL ADAMS,
The Gloucester Clinic,
5 Denmark Road,
Gloucester.
December 11.

From Mr M. Denton-Thompson

Sir, Your report of December 11, on the route of the final section of the M3 at Winchester, touches several raw nerves — among them the inadequacies of the public inquiry, despite the damage contemplated to nationally scheduled landscapes. Surely Government agents should be under a statutory obligation to give evidence at any inquiry into a proposal that would affect protected landscapes.

Does it not also run against natural justice for one party to receive an independent inspector's report, which is only made available to objectors once the decision by ministers is made? By all accounts the Department of Transport can not resist the temptation to provide additional information, outside of the public inquiry, to further their aims, thus undermining the minister's quasi-judicial position.

Yours faithfully,
MERRICK DENTON-THOMPSON
(Landscape Institute, South West Chapter),
Old Farm House,
Lower Preshaw Farm,
Upham, Hampshire.
December 11.

COURT CIRCULAR

SANDRINGHAM
December 22: The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh were represented by Mr Henry Davis (Extra Gentleman Usher to The Queen) at the Funeral of Mr Esmond Butler (Extra Gentleman Usher to The Queen) which was held in Christ Church Cathedral, Ottawa, Canada, this afternoon.

The Queen was represented by His Excellency Sir Paul Scoon (Governor-General of Grenada) at the Funeral of the Right Hon Herbert Blaize (Prime Minister of Grenada) which was held in St George's Anglican Church, this afternoon.

The Emperor of Japan celebrates his birthday today.

Princess Alice Duchess of Gloucester and Princess Alexandra celebrate their birthdays on Christmas Day.

Birthdays

TODAY: Mr Michele Alboreto, racing driver, 33; Lord Bancroft, 67; Mrs C. Bicknell, former chairman, Victoria Health Authority, 70; Sir Norman Biggs, banker, 82; Lord Blake, 73; Vice-Admiral Sir Stephen Carlill, 87; Professor Sir Theo Crawford, pathologist, 78; Mr Maurice Denham, actor, 80; Sir Colin Fielding, civil servant, 63; Mr Yousuf Karsh, photographer, 81; Mr Graham Kelly, chief executive, Football Association, 44; Mr Christopher Lawrence, silversmith, 53; Brigadier Sir Geoffrey Macnab, 90; Miss J.M. Quennell, former MP, 66; Mr Ashley Raeburn, former chairman, Boosey and Hawkes, 71; Herr Helmut Schmidt, former chancellor, Federal Republic of Germany, 71; Mr Christopher Turner, former headmaster, Stowe School, 60; Mr R.S. Unwin, publisher, 64; the Marquess of Winchester, 48.

CHRISTMAS EVE: Mr A.T. Baillie, diplomat, 57; Mrs Mair Barnes, managing director, Woolworths, 45; Miss Jill Bennett, actress, 58; Mr Colin Cowdrey, cricketer, 57; Brigadier Dame Barbara Cozens, former director, Army Nursing Services, 83; Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Vivian Dunn, military musician, 81; Sir Gerald Elliot, former chairman, Christian Salvesen, 66; Sir Nicholas Fairbairn, QC, MP, 56; Mr Ernest Fernyhough, former MP, 81; Sir Stafford Foster-Sutton, QC, 91; Miss Ava Gardner, actress, 67; Mr Jeremy Hindley, racehorse trainer, 46; Dame Joan Kelleher, former director, WRAC, 74; Mr Ivan Lawrence, QC, MP, 53; Sir Noel Moynihan, former chairman, Save the Children Fund, 73; Miss Thea Porter, fashion designer, 62; Mr J.D. Taylor, MP, 52; Viscount Thurso, 67; Mr Philip Ziegler, author, 60.

CHRISTMAS DAY: Lord Annan, 73; Baroness Berners, 88; Mr James Bolger, racehorse trainer, 48; Miss S.J. Browne, principal, Newnham College, Cambridge, 65; Mr Kenny Everett, broadcaster, 45; Lord Grade, 83; the Right Rev Noël Jones, Bishop of Sodor and Man, 57; Miss Annie Lennox, singer, 35; Sir Peter Matthews, former Chief Constable of Surrey, 72; Mr Ismail Merchant, film producer, 53; Sir Charles Mott-Radclyffe, former MP, 78; Professor Phyllida Parsloe, professor of social work, 59; Mr A.J.G. Sheppard, chairman and chief executive, Grand Metropolitan, 57; Mr Nigel Starmer-Smith, sports commentator, 45; Sir Noel Stockdale, life president, Asda-MFI, 69; the Right Rev B.N.Y. Vaughan, former Bishop of Swansea and Brecon, 72; Sir Christopher Wates, chairman, Wates Building Group, 50; Lord Westwood, 82.

Latest wills

Mr Thomas Wright, of Wallasey, Merseyside, left estate valued at £2,042,125 net. He died intestate.

Mr G. Matthews

Mr Graham Matthews wishes his friends at home and overseas a merry Christmas and a very happy New Year.

SCIENCE REPORT

Making progress with prions

Brain-destroying diseases in humans and animals are frightening partly because the causes of many of them remain obscure. But research in the past few years has found a connection between some of them, a protein called PrP.

This protein is unusually resistant to natural enzyme attack and accumulates in the brains of sheep with scrapie, cattle with bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE, or mad cow disease) and is associated with a number of rare degenerative disorders in human beings.

Like all proteins, the instructions for making PrP are found in a gene. Versions of the PrP gene have been found in a wide range of animals.

In the December 1 issue of *Cell* (vol 59, pp 847-857), Stanley Prusiner, of the University of California at San Fransisco, and colleagues show that "transgenic" mice carrying the hamster PrP gene develop scrapie-like symptoms when inoculated with hamster PrP.

This result, say the researchers, argues that some kind of interaction between foreign PrP and the host's own PrP gene is necessary for scrapie-like symptoms to develop. It also explains why scrapie is, to an extent, species specific. Cattle probably contracted BSE through contact with sheep material infected with scrapie, but sheep and cattle PrP are very similar.

Despite a great deal of research, the agent that causes scrapie, BSE and the other diseases in this family remains frustratingly elusive. Some researchers argue that PrP represents nothing more than the "footprint" of some other, as yet undetected, disease organism. Others think that PrP might be a part of a larger organism that might include small molecules of nucleic acid to store genetic information.

This view is based on the premise that no organisms are known, however simple, that do not have genes made from nucleic acids such as DNA or RNA. Pathological evidence indicates a number of strains of scrapie, each with a distinctive incubation time and spectrum of symptoms. This shows the presence of some form of genetic information, as yet inexplicable in terms other than the presence of nucleic acid: and yet, no nucleic acids have been found that are specifically associated with scrapie (except the host PrP gene, that is).

But Prusiner and his colleagues favour PrP itself as the infectious agent. This is the simplest and yet the most controversial viewpoint: PrP protein molecules are definitely there, extra bits of nucleic acid merely hypothetical. But if PrP were really a separate entity, it would be an example of an "organism" so basic as to eschew nucleic acids as a store of genetic information. These entities are sometimes termed prions.

Prusiner and colleagues do not address this point in their current paper, concentrating instead on the interaction between the host PrP gene and introduced PrP, as well as how animals develop scrapie-like symptoms after being genetically engineered to carry the PrP gene from another species and then challenged with PrP proteins from that species. Crucially, extracts from the diseased brains of mice with hamster scrapie are infective in hamsters.

The logical outcome of this kind of work, say the researchers, would be to create a single strain of genetically-engineered mice that harbour genes for human, bovine and sheep PrP. Such a mouse "might provide a universal host for medically and agriculturally important prion diseases".

Whether it would identify PrP as the cause of infection or just another symptom may well be another question entirely.

Henry Gee

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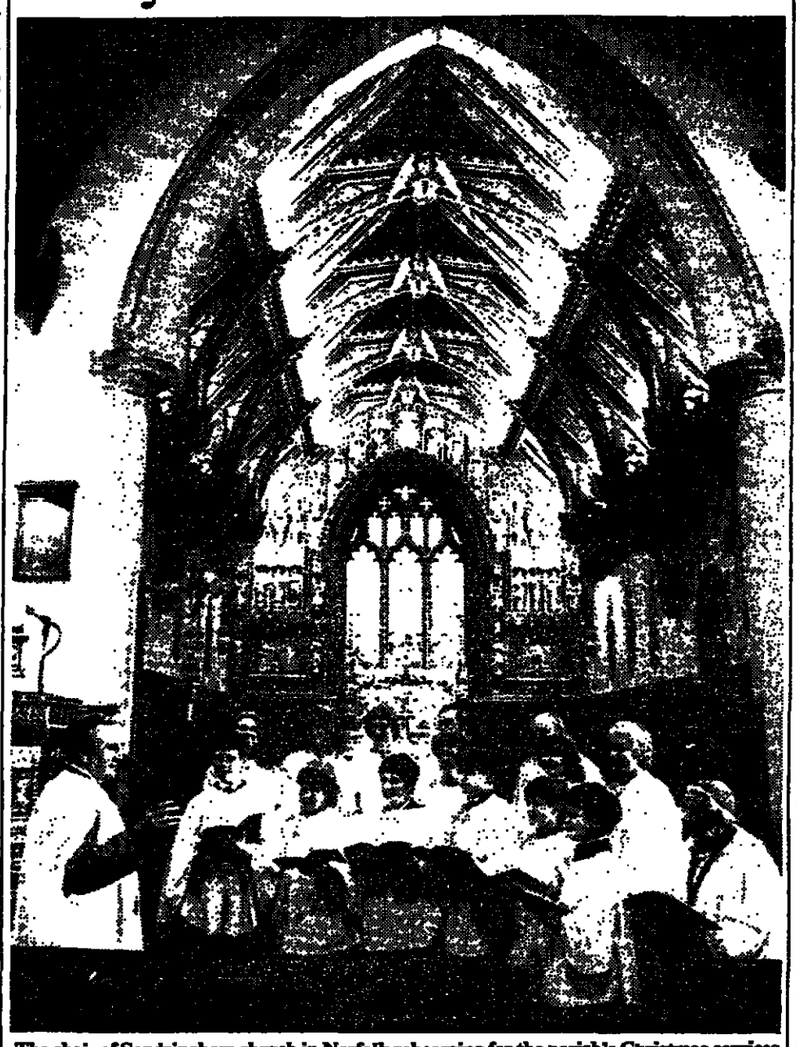
Royal Norfolk Christmas



The choir of Sandringham church in Norfolk rehearsing for the parish's Christmas services which will be attended by the Royal Family. The Queen usually spends Christmas at Windsor before going to Norfolk but repair work at the castle has led to a change of plan.

Anniversaries

Today

BIRTHS: James Gibbs, architect, Aberdeen, 1682; Sir Richard Arkwright, inventor, Preston, 1732; Sir Martin Archer Shee, painter, Dublin, 1770; Joseph Smith, founder of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (Mormons), Sharon, Vermont, 1805; Samuel Smiles, author of *Self-Help*, Haddington, Lothian, 1812; Sir Hugh Allen, organist and music teacher, Reading, 1869; Joseph Arthur Rank, Baron Rank, industrialist, Methodist teacher and film magnate, Hull, 1888.

DEATHS: Michael Drayton, poet, London (?), 1631; Thomas Robert Malthus, economist, Bath, 1834; Anthony Herman Fokker, aircraft pioneer, New York, 1939; Edward Lindley Wood, 1st Earl of Halifax, statesman, Viceroy of India 1926-31, Garrowby, Yorkshire, 1959.

Tomorrow

BIRTHS: John, reigned 1199-1216, Oxford, 1167; George Crabbe, poet, Aldeburgh, Suffolk, 1754; James Joule, physicist, Salford, Lancashire, 1818; Matthew Arnold, Laleham, Middlesex, 1822; John Morley, Viscount Morley of Blackburn, statesman and writer, Blackburn, 1838.

DEATHS: William Makepeace Thackeray, London, 1863; Léon Bakst, stage designer, 1924; Alban Berg, composer, Vienna, 1935.

Christmas Day

BIRTHS: Sir Isaac Newton, Woolsthorpe, Lincolnshire, 1642; William Collins, poet, Chichester, 1721; Alexander Scriabin, composer, Moscow, 1872; Mohammed Ali Jinnah, first governor-general of Pakistan 1947-48, Karachi, 1876; Maurice Utrillo, painter, Paris, 1883; Conrad Hilton, hotel magnate, San Antonio, New Mexico, 1887; Humphrey Bogart, 1899.

DEATHS: Karel Capek, dramatist, Prague, 1938; W. C. Fields, actor, Pasadena, California, 1946; Sir Charles (Charlie) Chaplin, Corsier-sur-Vevey, Switzerland, 1977.

The Pilgrim Fathers landed at Plymouth Rock, Massachusetts, 1620.

Forthcoming marriages

Dr P.C. Brazier
and Miss K.L.S. Collyear
The engagement is announced between Patrick, only son of Mr and Mrs K.C. Brazier, of Croydon, and Kate, younger daughter of Sir John and Lady Collyear, of Nether Wescote, Gloucestershire.

Captain P.K. Harkness
and Miss J.M. Foster
The engagement is announced between Captain Paul Harkness, The Queen's Own Highlanders, son of The Reverend James and Mrs Harkness, of Saxe-Coburg Place, Edinburgh, and Jacqueline, daughter of the late Major General John Foster and of Mrs Monica Foster, of Westow Lodge, York.

Dr M.G. Archer
Miss G.A. Bott
The marriage of Mark Archer, son of Mr and Mrs J.E. Archer, of Fishbourne, Isle of Wight, and Gillian Bott, daughter of Mr and Mrs R. Bott, of Northfields, Birmingham, will take place in the Spring.

Mr M. Arnold
and Miss S.A.E. Maltby
The engagement is announced between Mark, younger son of Mr and Mrs R.T. Arnold, of Cheltenham, and Sally, youngest daughter of Col and Mrs H.R.C. Maltby, of Yarmouth, Isle of Wight.

Mr I.R. Bullock
and Miss J.I. Ringrose
The engagement is announced between Iain Robert, son of Professor and Mrs Frederick W. Bullock, of St Albans, and Julie Isobel, daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter F. Ringrose, of Harrogate.

Mr T.A. Craig
and Miss A.C. Gladden
The engagement is announced between Trigg Alexander, elder son of Mr and Mrs W.A. Craig, of York, Western Australia, and Anne Catherine, only daughter of Mr and Mrs R.R. Gladden, of Briston, Norfolk.

Mr S.J. Darracott
and Miss R.A. Riley
The engagement is announced between Stephen, only son of Mr and Mrs G.J. Darracott, of Bromley, Kent, and Rosemary, only daughter of Mr and Mrs J.J. Riley, of Wiston, Dyfed.

Mr C.H. Fairpo
and Miss A Frizell
The engagement is announced between Charles Henry, only son of Mr and Mrs Gavin Fairpo, of West Park, Leeds, West Yorkshire, and Anne, daughter of Mr Richard Frizell, of Hong Kong, and Mrs Clive Butcher, of St Albans, Hertfordshire.

Mr N.J.S. Forster
and Miss O. Pace O'Shea
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, younger son of Mr and Mrs W.S. Forster, of London and Northumberland, and Oonagh, only daughter of Mr and Mrs A.G.H. Pace O'Shea, of Kensington, London.

Mr D.C. Fountain
and Miss S. Hughes
David Fountain and Sandy Hughes, of Cartmel, Cumbria, are delighted to announce their recent engagement and thank their families and friends for the support given to them throughout recent, testing times.

Captain A.W.J. Lockhart
and Miss J.E. Freeman
The engagement is announced between Capt Andrew William Jardine Lockhart, 7th Parachute Regiment Royal Horse Artillery, son of Mr and Mrs W.H.A. Lockhart, of Bishampton, Worcestershire, and Joanna Elizabeth, only daughter of Mr and Mrs D.G.D.Freeman, of Neston, Wirral.

Mr S.A. Maltby
and Miss D.A. Smith
The engagement is announced between Simon, son of Mr and Mrs Geoff Maltby, of Wisbech, Cambridgeshire, and Miss Deborah Anne Smith, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs David Smith, of Hutton, Essex.

Mr T.R. Mates
and Miss K. Toseland
The engagement is announced between Rory, younger son of Mr Michael Mates, MP, of Petersfield, Hampshire, and Mrs Mary Neville, of Farnham, Surrey, and Karen, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Roger Toseland, of Whiston, Northamptonshire.

Mr A.D. Noakes
and Miss C.R. Gepp
The engagement is announced between Anthony Dominic, the younger son of Mr and Mrs A.J. Noakes, of Rowlands Gill, Tyne and Wear, and Christina Rosemary, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs T.C. Gepp, of Margaret Roding, Essex.

Mr M. Phillips
and Miss C. Norwich
The engagement is announced between Michael, younger son of Mr and Mrs Leslie Phillips, of Shenfield, Essex, and Cara, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Hew Norwich, of Upminster, Essex.

Mr B.J. Purce
and Miss G.M. Boyd
The engagement is announced between Barney, only son of Dr and Mrs George B. Purce, of Hillsborough, Co Down, and Gwen, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Russell Boyd, of Newry, Co. Down.

Mr M.H. Wilkinson
and Miss L.M. Chilvers
Mitchell and Wendy Wilkinson, of Park Lodge, Thorngrafton, Northumberland, have pleasure in announcing the engagement of their elder son Mark Hatton, to Lynne Margaret, second daughter of Robert and Hilary Chilvers, of Huntercrook Lodge, Henshaw, Northumberland. Congratulations from both families.

Mr N.A. Taylor
and Miss M.T. Roberts
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, eldest son of Mrs P.M. Taylor and the late Mr F.C.H. Taylor, and Marie, daughter of Mrs C.P. Roberts and the late B.P. Roberts, of Taplow, Berkshire.

Mr L.G. Watts
Ms S.A. Saltonstall
The engagement is announced, on Christmas Eve, between Lawrence Geoffrey Watts, elder son of Mr Geoffrey Watts, of Essex, and Mrs Christopher Crow, of Suffolk, and Sarah Ann Saltonstall, youngest daughter of Lt. Col. & Mrs Gilbert Saltonstall, of Yorkshire.

Marriages

Mr S.J. Morse
and Miss M. Sar
The marriage took place yesterday in the American Cathedral, Paris, of Mr Samuel John Morse, youngest son of Sir Jeremy and Lady Morse, of London, to Miss Minati Kumari Sar, only daughter of Dr and Mrs Madhabananda Sar, of Chapel Hill, North Carolina. The Rev Mark Stibbe officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Miss Ashley Leffler, Miss Elaine MacParland, Miss Kimmy Kelly, Mrs Adela Lleal, Miss Isabel Morse and Miss Hildegunn Gjengedal. Mr John Binnie was best man.

Mr C. Brooks
and Miss M. Sargeant
The marriage took place on Saturday, December 16, at St James's, Sarsden, of Mr Christopher Brooks and Miss Miranda Sargeant.

Mr A.N.B. Wingfield
and Miss C.J.V. Porter
The marriage took place on Wednesday, at The Brompton Oratory, London, of Mr Andrew Wingfield, son of the late Mr G.C.B. Wingfield and of Mrs D.H.B. Neal, of Hackney Lodge, Woodbridge, Suffolk, to Miss Caroline Porter, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs J.F.F. Porter, of The Old Bakery, Martock, Somerset. The Reverend and Hon Dom Jonathan Monckton, OSB, officiated.

The bride, who was given away in marriage by her father, was attended by Edward Hall, Harry Hall, Jamie Loughborough, Rose Hall and Miranda Hadsley-Chaplin. Mr James Roome was best man.

A reception was held at the Naval & Military Club, and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

Make His Christmas Special

Buy him a pack of...

A CHOICE OF SIZES R.R.P. PER PACK OF 5	
JEWELS	£1.35
SLIM PANATELLAS	£1.48
CIGARILLOS DELUXE	£2.65
PANATELLAS	£2.95
HALF CORONA	£3.80
IMPERIAL	£6.20
INVINCIBLE DELUXE	£6.90

KING EDWARD CIGARS

OBITUARIES

RT REV JOHN RAMSBOTHAM

Pioneer of the Parish and People Movement

The Right Reverend John Alexander Ramsbotham, who was Bishop of Wakefield from 1958 to 1967, died on December 16, aged 83. Essentially a pastor and spiritual guide rather than an administrator or preacher, he was one of the pioneers of the Parish and People Movement which has over the past 40 years promoted the frequency of Eucharistic worship in the Church of England.

The son of a former vicar and born on February 25, 1906, he was educated at Haileybury and went up as choral scholar to Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, where he took a second in history and a first in theology. His love of singing and music always underlay his concern for public worship at the parish level.

He prepared for ordination at Wells Theological College and began as a curate of All Hallows, Lombard Street, but, like several future bishops of his generation, he worked mainly for the Student Christian Movement during the years 1930 to 1934, and then in its heyday. He returned to Wells first as Chaplain and then as Vice-Principal of the Theological College and Priest-Vicar of the Cathedral.

In 1936 Ramsbotham was appointed Warden of the College of the Ascension, Selly Oak, Birmingham, where he was largely concerned with the training of missionaries. As, however, the Second World War years reduced the number of students, he transferred to the parish ministry, in which he was to prove so successful.

In 1942, after a short spell as Rector of Ordsall, Nottingham, he became Vicar of the well-known Newcastle-upon-Tyne suburban parish of St George, Jesmond, and good terrain for his Parish and People Movement ideals.

Here, as in his diocese later, he worked to build up the local church as the committed Christian community. He emphasized the importance of baptism and endeavoured to weld church people together with their focus in the parish communion. His approach was set out in his book *Belief in Christ and the Christian Community* (1949).

In 1950 he was consecrated Bishop Suffragan of Jarrow, where his pastoral ministry complemented, perhaps not always easily, the quite different gifts and outlooks of his successive diocesans, Bishops Alwyn Williams, Michael Ramsey and Maurice Harland.

Popular with the clergy, and with a warm concern for people at large, Ramsbotham took on a heavy load. During his eight years at Durham he was also Archdeacon of Auckland and had to carry the diocese through two vacancies.

When Dr Roger Wilson was translated to Chichester in 1958 he was appointed to succeed him as Bishop of Wakefield. Here he found greater scope for his pastoral ability and for furthering the church's role in the civil, cultural and industrial life of the community.

Because of illness brought on by the strain of his episcopal years, he was obliged to retire in 1967. But with improvement in health he was able to assist the Bishop of Newcastle for a further eight years.

In 1933 he had married Eirian Morgan Owen, by whom he had three sons and two daughters. His wife died in 1987. One of his sons is Lieutenant-General Sir David Ramsbotham, Commander of the UK Field Army and Inspector General of the Territorial Army.

GERRY HEALY

An in-fighter of the far left

Gerry Healy, who died on December 14, aged 76, spent 53 years as an active Trotskyist and was responsible for training the actress Vanessa Redgrave and her brother, Corin, in the politics of the left.

No figure of the far left during Healy's period on the scene has aroused more passions within the movement, but the real extent of his influence, much publicised at the time, is a matter for debate and, except in the case of some individuals, not long lasting. For a time he fulfilled the role of bogeyman by his movement's influence in the docks and car industry and there were subsequent allegations of funding from Iraq and Libya.

Born in Cork, Healy was a former Communist before the Second World War. His erratic career of leadership began with the Workers' International League. The Revolutionary Communist Party and Socialist Labour League (which became the Workers' Revolutionary Party) followed. He was adept at propaganda, launching a weekly newsletter in the 1950s and then a daily newspaper — *Workers Press* and later *News Line*.

After the Socialist Labour League was proscribed by the Labour Party, the tenacles of recruitment went out to the potentially disaffected unemployed and young blacks, among others, but power was too centralised in Healy's hands for the movement to have spontaneous combustion. He maintained control by an ability to be both tough and beguiling, using Marx, Engels, Lenin and Trotsky as the basis for his criticisms.

The internecine warfare with which the far left conducts its affairs suited Healy. Like others before him and since, he believed his was the only true vision and quelled dissent. Expelling and being expelled is a mechanism which is ever a threat to stability on the far left and in Healy's case his volatility meant any opportunities for real development which his movement had were frustrated.

He was obsessed by his belief that MI5 and the Special Branch had the movement under surveillance and was ever on the alert for alleged undercover work by "police agents". He appears to have been on easiest terms with the young, perhaps because they posed less of a threat than the factions he quarrelled with, and infiltrated the Young Socialists, a movement which was purged of Trotskyists by the Labour Party.

His career with the WRP ended in disaster with allegations, fiercely denied by his supporters, that he was sexually involved with 26 women members of the party. Rebounding from his expulsion, he launched two years ago a new body called the Marxist Party.

COLIN ECCLESHARE

Cambridge publisher and man of books

Colin Eccleshare, who had a long career with the Cambridge University Press and a former President of the Publishers' Association, died on December 11 aged 73. He was one of the most valued professional publishers of the post-war years, though in many ways opposite to publishing's traditional image, with its emphasis on flamboyance and drama. He was a professional.

Gregarious he certainly was; also well-read, a good judge of style, an appreciator of food and wine. But it was in less spectacular but more essential aspects of publishing that he excelled. His professional mastery of design, production, and marketing brought him widespread recognition, including Chairmanship of the Society of Bookmen.

Eccleshare was born on May 2, 1916, into a modest Derby family, and though he spent his life in more sophisticated atmospheres modesty always remained with him, along with a marked radical streak. He lacked "side". Scholarships took him to St Catharine's College, Cambridge, in 1935, to read English in the great days of F.R. Leavis and I. A. Richards. Soon after graduating he joined the Cambridge University Press. He also met, and in 1942 married, Elizabeth, daughter of two distinguished members of the Cambridge English Faculty of that time, Stanley and Joan Bennett, to begin a long and happy family life which brought a son and three daughters.

When he married, Eccleshare was already serving in the Royal Engineers, where his professional skill in the production of maps resulted in his appointment to Lord Louis Mountbatten's wartime staff in South-East Asia.

On demobilisation he returned to the CUP, working in its London office, of which he became manager in 1963. It was a key post and he held it for 12 years, until pressures on universities, and so on traditional academic publishing, forced a reorganisation which closed the London office, and he became Director of Group Projects.

Of these the most important, at that time, was the new translation of the Bible undertaken by the two ancient universities. He was not responsible for commissioning the translators or for the prose they produced, but the huge task of production and distribution fell to him and success in it was one of his most widely-recognised achievements.

These years opened into a wider career in the service of British books as an officer, and from 1973-75 the President of the Publishers' Association. His advice was constantly sought, especially after his retirement from the Press in 1977; by the British Council, the EEC, the British Library, and Unesco, to whose British National Committee he was appointed in 1978.

He travelled widely for British books — to Mexico, Manila, Saudi Arabia, among others and, of course, Frankfurt where his annual presence at the Book Fair was unfailing.

"Real publishing" was not neglected. He joined the technical publishers John Wylie as a director, and rescued the distressed Athlone Press in two years as emergency manager. His methods were never bleak or ruthless, but his feet were on the ground and he was expert in deflating the overblown expectations of authors and committees in the nicest possible way. He knew too much, he sometimes said, about selling unsaleable books.

He was fond of jazz, a competent actor and a popular member of the Garrick Club. But this unpretentious, bespectacled man was probably happiest in his remote cottage in the Merioneth mountains.

BILLY WELLS

From child actor to pantomime dame

Billy Wells, who has died at the age of 80 on December 18, was one of Britain's best-loved female impersonators and a most respected pantomime dame. A short, stocky figure, he endeared himself to variety audiences as he strutted around the stage with an enormous cleavage, usually singing in a very loud voice: "I *must* have been a beautiful baby".

He was born in Eastbourne and his mother started his career as a child actor at the age of seven in local seaside shows. At 16, he formed a song and dance double act appearing for 15 weeks at the Pier Hotel in Eastbourne.

In his twenties he became one of the first male principal boys in pantomime and later in variety impersonated the musical hall artist Randolph Sutton — much to Sutton's displeasure. The row spilled over into the press but did not affect Wells's drawing power at the box office.

He enlisted with the RAF during the Second World War and became a leading light with the ENSA minstrel show in North Africa. He later joined several tours with Ralph Reader's *Gang Show* in the Middle and Far East in company with Tony Hancock and Peter Sellers.

When demobbed he toured for five years throughout Britain with the famous all-male revue *Soldiers in Skirts* and later *Forces Showboat*. During the late 1950s and 1960s he became one of the most accomplished traditional pantomime dames, appearing in major theatres throughout Britain — usually as Mother Goose (12 times) and eight times as Widow Twankey in *Aladdin*.

He continued to appear in nightclubs until ill health forced him to retire. Last August the British Music Hall Society paid a special tribute to him to mark his 70 years in show business and he duly appeared in the finale of the lavish show dressed as an overweight Gaiety Girl long past her prime.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & PERSONAL

For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.
Isaiah 65 : 17

BIRTHS

BELL - On December 12th 1989, to Mary (née Flides) and John, a daughter, Emily Elizabeth Mary.

CLARK - On December 19th 1989, at Ninewells Hospital, Dundee, to Josephine (née Cunningham) and Michael, a son, Robert Michael George.

de JONG - On December 17th 1989, to Anne-Marie (née Gyson) and Mark, a daughter, Francesca Antonia.

DETERDING - On December 18th 1989, in Tokyo, to Emma and Nicholas, a daughter, Isabella.

FOULSER - On December 14th, to Clemmie and Jeff, a son, Peter Frederick George, a brother for Lucy.

FURSE - On December 8th 1989, to Fiona (née Livsey) and Charles, a son, Adam William Machin.

JONES - On December 15th, to Marion (née Gordon) and Terence, a son, Hugh Livingstone, a brother for Timothy.

MONCKTON - On December 19th 1989, to Georgiana and Piers, a daughter, Isabel.

PETROS - On December 20th, at Frimley Park Hospital, to Martine (née Henri) and Zaid, a daughter, Katia. Our thanks to the staff for their kind help.

RIBTON - On December 15th 1989, to Margie (née Young) and Stan, a daughter, Alice Rosemary, a sister for Anne and Nick.

SYMINGTON - On December 20th, to Helen (née Price) and Johnny, a son, William George Douglas.

TAYLOR - On December 21st, at the Barratt Maternity Home, to Fiona, a son.

WOOLF - On December 11th, to Jill (née McManners) and Douglas, a son, Alexander Thomas. All thanks to staff at Queen Charlotte's.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

BLAIR:LOLY On December 23rd, 1939, at St. Michael's Church, Camberley, James Alexander (Captain The Black Watch) to Elizabeth.

BLUETT:ARNOLD - On December 23rd 1939 at St Cyprians, Clarence Gate Gardens, NW1, Charles Courtenay to Muriel. Present address: The Laurels, Amberley, West Sussex.

CONLEY:TURNER - On December 23rd 1939, Sidney to Evelyn. Now at St Paul's Cray.

SKELLETT:REED - On 25th December 1939 at Christchurch, Rotherhithe, SE16, William to Trudie now at Mottingham SE9 best wishes from Kit, Billy, Jean, Denis, June, Janet, Dennis and Sally-Ann.

ST. GEORGE IRWIN:STEEN - On December 23rd, 1939, at St. Nicholas' Church, Shepperton-on-Thames, Second Lieutenant Brian St. George Irwin to Audrey Lilla Steen.

DEATHS

BEDFORD - On December 21st, peacefully after a short illness, Leslie Herbert Bedford C.B.E., deeply loved father, grandfather and great-grandfather. Funeral at Golders Green Crematorium (East Chapel) Hoop Lane, London, NW11, Thursday December 28th at 12.20 pm. Family flowers.

BOYS - On December 19th, peacefully in a Worthing nursing home, Agnes Frederica. Service at Durrington Cemetery on Thursday January 4th 1990 at 12.30 pm. Donations in lieu of flowers to Worthing Animal Rescue, c/o Jordan & Cook Funeral Service, 52 Ann Street, Worthing. tel: (0903) 32702.

BRIDGE - On December 20 1989, after a long illness, Margot (née Fleet), formerly of Tientsin, Hong Kong and Tunbridge Wells and lately of Dorchester-on-Thames. Funeral 2 pm Thursday December 28 at Dorchester Abbey, followed by cremation. No flowers please, but donations if desired to Cancer Research.

CARROLL - On December 20th, John Francis, beloved husband of Hazel, father of Kate and Belinda. Funeral private. Donations to R.A.F. Benevolent Fund.

CLARKE - On December 20th, suddenly, Henry Clarkson (Nobby), formerly of Malaysia. Dearly loved husband of the late Dawn and father of Penny, Peter and Prue. Service at St Mary's, Bramshott, at 3 pm on Friday December 29th. No flowers please, but donations if desired to The Golf Foundation, 57 London Road, Enfield, EN2 6DU.

COLLINS - On December 16th 1989, at Fordingbridge, Tindall Collins, widow of Jeff. Funeral at St Mary's, Fordingbridge, on Thursday December 28th at 2 pm, followed by private cremation. Family flowers only at her request.

ELLIS - On December 21st, Clarice. Deeply mourned by her husband Maxwell, son Maurice Adler, his wife Tessa; and all family. Funeral at Golders Green Crematorium, Hoop Lane, NW11. December 24th at 11 am.

FALCONER - On December 21st, suddenly, Joan, beloved wife of Sir Douglas and much loved mother of Ian and Sally and grandmother of Lucy, Charlotte, Rachel, Gemma and Georgina. Funeral Service at St Mary's Church, Reigate, Surrey, at 3.45 pm on Thursday December 28th, followed by cremation at Surrey and Sussex Crematorium. Flowers and all enquiries to Stoneman Funeral Service, Doran Court, Redhill, Surrey.

GLOSS - On December 16th 1989, (Evelyn Doreen) of South Hanningfield, Essex, peacefully, aged 72. Beloved daughter of the late Oscar and Katherine Willis (née Bradshaw) formerly Grove Park, Lewisham. Wife of Karl Anton Gloss. Loving mother of Robert Gloss, Barbara McComb, Peter Gloss, Anna Wallace, Christopher Gloss, Sonia Downey, Martin Gloss, Josephine Aultman-Gloss. Loving grandmother of 14 grandchildren. She will be greatly missed by the entire family. Funeral was on December 20th at Downham Church, Essex. Enquiries to Hatton & Jewers Solicitors, c/o Northgate House, Town Square, Basildon, Essex.

GORING - On December 21st 1989, peacefully at a Seaford nursing home, after a long illness borne with great fortitude, Gladys, loving wife of the late Frank Goring M.B.E. Funeral Service at Eastbourne Crematorium on Wednesday January 10th at 12.30 pm. Flowers to Seaford Funeral Service, Sutton Rd., Seaford, Sussex.

HINCHLIFFE - On December 21st, peacefully, Jessie Hinchliffe (Rawsthorne) M.B.E., Musician, aged 81. Member of the BBC Symphony Orchestra 1930-46, then of the Philharmonica Orchestra until her retirement. Loved by everybody. Service at Golders Green Crematorium (West Chapel) on Thursday 28/12 at 4 pm. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to Philharmonica Benevolent Fund, 76 Great Portland Street, W1N 5AL.

JOSEPH - On December 21st, peacefully after a long illness, Mina Ruth, aged 80, wife of the late Sir Norman Joseph, much loved mother of Georgina and grandmother of Jacquelyn, Penny and Henry. Loved by all who knew her. Funeral Service for close friends and family only at Golders Green Crematorium, Hoop Lane, on Thursday December 28th at 1 pm. Flowers to H.J. Bent, 343 Ladbroke Grove, London W10 6HA, or donations if desired to Alzheimer's Disease Society, 158 Balham High Road, SW12 9BN.

KEYSER - On December 18th 1989, in hospital near her home in Spain, after a long and courageous struggle, Odette Jeanne, aged 77, beloved wife, mother, grandmother and aunt. Forever in our hearts.

MOLLISON SMITH - On December 18th 1989, at The Pines Nursing Home, Putney, Edna (née Wood). Funeral Service at Putney Vale Crematorium Thursday January 11th 1990 at noon. No flowers, but donations if desired to Cancer Research Campaign or to World Wildlife Fund.

NEWISS - On December 22nd peacefully, Winifred of Crosshills near Keighley. Beloved wife of Reginald, mother of Julian and Hilary and grandmother of Emily, Josh and Olivia, will be missed by relatives and friends. Private cremation, memorial service to be held in the new year. Details to be announced.

POOL - On December 18th, Derek. Beloved of Steve, Jenny, Ngaire, Mary and Nick. Service at Parndon Wood Crematorium, Harlow, 27th December 2.00pm. Donations in lieu of flowers to The du Pre Appeal, 14 Ogal Street, London W1.

NEWMAN - On Wednesday December 20th, Benjamin, peacefully after a long illness, borne with amazing courage. Devoted and much loved husband of Elizabeth, dearly loved father of Estelle, Judy and Peter. Loved and respected step-father of Louis, Michael and Donna, and of sons-in-law, Charles and Randy. Will be sadly missed by his loving grandchildren Darin, Dirk, Daynar, Kyla, David, Alexander, Bruno and Darrele, and by all those who knew and loved him.

RAWSTHORNE - See Hinchliffe.

RICKETT - On December 21st 1989, peacefully at St Andrew's Hospital, Northampton, Graham, much loved husband of Pam, dear father of Michael and loving grandfather of Charles, Amanda and James. Funeral Service will be held at St Mary Magdalene, Latimer, near Chesham, on Wednesday January 3rd at 2 pm, to be followed by private cremation. Family flowers only, but donations if desired to Leander Club, c/o H.J. & A. Wright Ltd., 106 High Street, Great Missenden, Bucks., tel: (02406) 3101.

SAVAGE - On December 21st, peacefully at home in Feock, Cornwall, Edric Athelstan. Much loved father of Richard, Felicity and Jonathan and their families. Funeral Service at St Feock Church on Thursday December 28th at 11.30 am. No flowers, donations in lieu to R.N.L.I., c/o Morley Penrose, Greenbank Road, Devoran, Truro, Cornwall.

WARREN - On December 20th 1989, peacefully, Gladys May, formerly of Bexhill-on-Sea, lately of Summersdale, Chichester, aged 90 years. Beloved sister of Edward. Funeral at Chichester Cemetery, 1.30 pm on December 29th 1989. No flowers by request, but donations to Chichester Scanner Appeal. All enquiries to be made at F.A. Holland and Son, 3 Jubilee Road, Chichester, PO19 1XJ, telephone: (0243) 782966.

WINHAM - On December 22nd 1989, peacefully, Ella aged 83 years. Mother of Peter and devoted Grandmother of Dean and Ryan. Enquiries to: E.R. Hickmott & Son, Tel: 0892 22462.

YOULDON - On December 19th, Wendy Maureen (née Sykes), peacefully at her home, The New Lodge, Amberley. The Funeral Service will be at Amberley, Glos., on Friday December 29th at 12.30 pm. Donations in lieu of flowers may be sent for The Cotswold Care Project, c/o Philip Ford and Son (Funeral Directors) Ltd., Dirleton House, Cainscross Road, Stroud, Glos.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

A Memorial Service for Tressilian Charles Nicholas, M.A. will be held in the Chapel of Trinity College, Cambridge on Saturday January 20th 1990 at 2.15 pm.

IN MEMORIAM – PRIVATE

HAYNES - Faith Daphne Amie. December 25th 1983. In tender loving memory always. Henry and family.

HEATH - Ruby of Stonor, Oxfordshire. Died tragically Christmas Eve 1979. Loyal and devoted housekeeper. Great Christian lady. Dearly beloved by Sherman Camoys and Julia Stonor. May she not have suffered in vain.

McGUINNESS - Maureen (née Walton) died December 23rd 1979. Remembered with love by her six children.

OF your charity please pray for the soul of Thomas Murray who died December 24th 1964. Rest in Peace.

PARIKIAN - In loving memory of Manoug Parikian who died on December 24th 1987.

PAYNE - (Ken). Sadly sadly missed, deep deep love forever. Toni, Jem and Fl.

SIMSON - Our love to Wynne, born December 24th and to her A.E.J. - J., J. & H.

SMITH - In loving memory of Frank, dear husband of Eva and father of Lawrence and Gillian.

Birth and Death notices may be accepted over the telephone.
For publication the following day please telephone by 5.00 pm Mon-Thurs, 4pm Friday, 9.30am-1.00pm Sat for Monday's paper.
01 481 4000

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LITTLE ONE. I am happy when your happy. I adore you. Tart.

MRS F. Face is unable to send a Christmas card this year and wishes Mr Specialman fondest Christmas greetings.

SCORPIO My ultimate desk executive, happy Christmas and new year. LAWU. Myosotis.

"THE sons of Kublai Khan announce the passage of the last Song Dynasty child to a better place than this. 01-12-89"

WHAT A WAY TO SPEND CHRISTMAS

Without home or family, 180,000 people face the prospect of spending a cold Christmas in parks, stations or shop doorways.
CRISIS tries to make this especially difficult time a little more bearable at our Open Christmas Shelter. For the 12 days of Christmas we provide accommodation, meals and, most importantly, companionship.
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With your help we can continue our work on behalf of the homeless into the 1990's.

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Address:
Post code:
Please return to: Crisis at Christmas, Ref ST
FREEPOST, London E1 1BR. Registered Charity No:266533

STUDENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

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ACCOUNT undergrad seeking vacation work previous exp in certified office. Tel. 021 552 8686

AMSTRAD PC1512 dual drive, colour monitor, excellent condition, call David 0742 620989

AMSTRAD DMP4000 dot matrix, wide carriage, printer, excellent condition, David 0742 620989

BEGONIA, happy worst-day. Enjoy Christmas. Hasta Pronto. Love Nik xox

BOOKS - Medical Physiology Guyton 6th ed & others £19 squib. 0234 63363

CITY University Enjoy your christmas hols, especially to EA2 students. Regards see why

CLULEY - H J. Soixante neuf le La Saint-Etienne. Joyeux Anniversaire - étudiants P.G.M

DEB, Welcome home! I missed you. Happy Christmas. Love you - Ell.

DRUM KIT wanted please supply details any good condition kit considered. Tel: 0635 248497

FLATSHARE: Harrow, single room, share facilities. Near tube. £55/week. 01 424 2351

FOR SALE: HB/71 hand held computer(21k). HP/12C & Casio BC 300. Tel: 01 794 9220

GEOFF, Happy Christmas & New Year darling, much love Janis & Pip.

HAPPY Christmas Mam, Dad, Andrew, Deborah and Meg the dog. From David.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS & Prosperous New Year ex-High Paviours Nottingham. Simon Campbell

HIROKO, you are everything to me. I love you. Gareth.

IBM software original titles available including Q&A and supercalc. David 0742 620989

LOGITECH Scanman, excellent condition hand held scanner for IBM. David 0742 620989

MEL, Happy Brithday and Xmas, missing you. Lots of love, Ian. xxx xxx xxx xxx xxx xxx xxx

MEXICAN Hammocks (new) sale Unusual Christmas gift, for serious Times reader 0564 73109

NISSAN Sunny 1.6DX '84', immac ecmcl. low milge tints, alloys. £2350 061 224 8058

RADIO-controlled cars for sale Optima Mid & Mardave Meteor, many extra £250 0635 248497

REVISION - G.C.S.E. study aids for sale in good condition. Ideal for mocks.

ROBERT BROOKS, Happy 65th Birthday Grandad. December 24th, best wishes, from Robert.

SAUNDERS Alison Happy Christmas to my favourite Sainsburys girl. Loadsa love. John

STUDENT requires work in Australia. April 1990 Anything considered. Tel. 0946 696796

SUNBED - Philips 6 tube top canopy PLUS 6 tubes free - £100. Tel. 0742 581 444.

SUPERB 3-bed flat, Poole "The Avenue" 2-mins ride from sea. £112,000. Tel. 0202 767005

SYLVIA, thanks for a great year. Love David and Leon xxxx

TESS darling, happy 23rd, loadsa luv, Dad, Mum, Shani, Raym & Sheel.

TRUNK for sale: 40"x20"x21" Super cond. £50. South West England only 0823 412383

WENDY ABBOTT, Happy Birthday - lots of love Matthew xx

BIRTHDAYS

NICKI - Congratulations for your 26th Birthday (26 12 1989) Old Girl! Lots of love Jill XXX.

SERVICES

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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But with an average yearly phone bill of £500,000 it's you we're now calling on for help.
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Write to Simon Armson, The Samaritans, Room A, 17 Uxbridge Road, Slough SL1 1SN for further details.
The Samaritans

FOR SALE

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HALF PRICE Cane Furniture Buy now pay Spring 1990 Large range, unbeatable prices Oriental Siam (0254) 213548 for details.

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SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS

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SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS

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WIDOWER 60, 5' 10", 160 lbs, East Anglia, n/s, seeks company of intelligent, natural, outgoing, slim woman My interests, music, bridge. Gaia: they needn't be yours Photo please Reply to BOX A52

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

CONGRATULATIONS Sarah and Phil. Happy Christmas. Love and Best Wishes Mum and Dad

DAVINA TAYLOR (Phillips) wishes her friends and loved ones Happy Christmas and New Year. I have given Christmas card and stamp money to Ethiopia which also saves trees.

MR H J JOEL Wishes all his friends a Merry Christmas and a happy and peaceful New Year.

TREVOR - I Love you so much Have a wonderful Christmas and Boxing day Lucia xox.

YEARNING and longing to be with You and to hold You close. Keti.

RENTALS

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DOMESTIC AND CATERING SITUATIONS

HOUSEKEEPER who loves animals Professional couple who travel extensively wish to hire housekeeper for home in Denver. Co. Private room & bath Must be able to drive & cook. Care for 1 cat & 2 dogs. Starts in 1990 Send particulars to: S.Hill, P.O Box 27646, Denver, Co. 80227 USA.

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
NO 006470 OF 1989
IN THE MATTER OF LWT (HOLDINGS) PLC
AND
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated the 11th December 1989 confirming the reduction of the capital of the above named Company from £5,650,000 to £1,205,809 and the Minute approved by the High Court showing with respect to the capital of the Company as altered the several particulars required by the above mentioned Act were registered by the Registrar of Companies on the 14th December 1989.
Dated this 23rd day of December 1989
Freshfields of Walden House
17-24 Cathedral Place
London EC4M 7JA
Solicitors for the above named Company

LMB COMPUTER SERVICES LIMITED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 48 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the unsecured creditors of the above named company will be held at the City Conference Centre, 76 Mark Lane, London EC3R 7JN, on Wednesday 3 January 1990 at 11 30 am. A creditor is entitled to vote only if he has sent to the Joint Administrative Receivers, not later than 12 noon on Tuesday 2 January 1990, details in writing of the debt that he claims to be due to him from the Company and the claim has been duly admitted under the provisions of the Insolvency Rules 1986 and there has been lodged with the Joint Administrative Receiver at Deloitte Haskins & Sells, PO Box 207, Queen Victoria Street, London EC4P 4JX, prior to the meeting any proxy which the creditor intends to be used on his behalf.
I D B Bond
Joint Administrative Receiver
Dated: 14 December 1989

TRUSTEE ACTS

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to s27 of the TRUSTEE Act, 1925 that any person having a CLAIM against or an INTEREST in the ESTATE of any of the deceased person's whose names, addresses and descriptions are set out below is hereby required to send particulars in writing of his claim or interest to the person or persons mentioned in relation to the deceased person concerned before the date specified, after which date the estate of the deceased will be distributed by the personal representatives among the persons entitled thereto having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

LOUPA Woolf Victor of 13 Pauline House, Hanbury Street, London E1 died on 17th August 1989 Particulars to Bennett Taylor Tyrrell Solicitors of 72 New Cavendish Street, London W1M 8AU, before 26th February 1990

DAWES Douglas Gerald of 10 Champion Grove, London SE5 8BW, died on 3 October 1989. Particulars to Charles Russell Williams & James (PFC) Solicitors of Hale Court, Lincoln's Inn, London WC2A 3UL, before 26th February 1990.

REECE John Brooks late of 54 Fairgreen Place, Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts 02167 U.S.A., Corporation President, died 3rd February 1989 Particulars to Messrs William Charles Crocker, New Mercury House, 81/82 Farringdon Street, London EC4A 4BT before 28th February 1990

ALFRED HAROLD CHARLES EAKETS DECEASED
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to S27 of the Trustee Act 1925 that any person having a claim against or an interest in the estate of ALFRED HAROLD CHARLES EAKETS otherwise ALFRED HAROLD EAKETTS deceased late of 22 North Road Gloucester who died on the 16th June 1989 are hereby requested to send particulars in writing of his or her claim or interest to Messrs Rowberry Morris whose address is Morroway House, Station Road, Gloucester GL1 1DW Ref VA and to send such particulars not later than 9th March 1990 after which date the Executors will distribute the estate among the persons entitled thereto having regard only to the claims and interest of which they have had notice and will not as respects the property so distributed, be liable to pay any persons of whose claims they shall not then have had notice.
Dated this 20th day of December 1989
Rowberry Morris
Morroway House
Station Road
Gloucester GL1 1DW
Solicitors for the Executors

PLETTS, NORMAN ERNEST (OTHERWISE WARWICK), Flat 2, 27 Bedfordbury London WC2, died on 23rd July 1989 particulars to Harbottle & Lewis Solicitors, Hanover House, 14 Hanover Square, London W1R 0BE, before 1 March 1990.

THE TIMES

New Year Copy Deadlines

Issue dated	Copy deadline
Saturday, 30th December	12.50pm Thursday, 28th Dec
Monday, 1st January	5.30pm Thursday, 28th Dec
Tuesday, 2nd January	5.00pm Friday, 29th Dec

(Cancellations and alterations by 5pm, Wednesday 27th December, 1989).

DEC 23 ON THIS DAY 1959

Kirby Groomkirby	RODDY MAUDE-ROXBY
Robert Barnes	JOHN HORSLEY
Mabel Groomkirby	ALISON LEGGATT
Sylvia Groomkirby	PATSY ROWLANDS
Aunt Mildred	PATSY BYRNE
Myra Gantry	GWEN NELSON
Arthur Groomkirby	GEORGE BENSON
Stan Honeyblock	DOUGLAS LIVINGSTON
Judge	DOUGLAS WILMER
Prosecuting Counsel	GRAHAM CROWDEN
Defence Counsel	GRAHAM ARMITAGE
Produced by	WILLIAM GASKELL

In the surreal plays of N.F. Simpson, one never quite knows what to expect; in One Way Pendulum, *a neighbour comes in regularly to eat up any surplus food and there, on the stage, before one's very eyes, is a D.I.Y. Central Criminal Court erected in a suburban home. The play, directed by Jonathan Miller, was revived at the Old Vic in 1988 with Graham Crowden, who appeared in the 1959 production, again in the cast.*

NON SEQUITURS AD NAUSEAM

There is a story of a man who had a face like a horse and across whose back, while he was tying up his shoe lace in the paddock, a short-sighted jockey threw a saddle. Asked afterwards what he did about it, the man recalled that he did what he could: he came in fourth.

It is the world to which this man belonged that Mr. N.F. Simpson explores perseveringly the *One Way Pendulum*, the Royal Court Theatre's form of Christmas entertainment. He calls it, helpfully, a world of High Drung and Slarrit.

It contains nine characters who give insanity gentle rein and one who conceals it under a tolerantly matter-of-fact manner. We hear of people riding to hounds on a camel and of other people who have trained themselves, as Pavlov's doctors were trained, not to feel hungry till the bell of a cash register has set their salivary glands working. A char-woman comes in twice a week to give a hand with the eating, and a girl, catching sight of herself in a glass, becomes acutely dissatisfied with the length of her arms.

The man who all his life has collected law books without reading them turns suddenly to the collecting of wood. Inspired by Noah's ark — the supreme achievement in wood — he sets out to build a replica of the Old Bailey in the living room of his suburban house.

While it still lacks a jury box and a dock, the court fills up with a judge and opposing counsel, who proceed with dead-pan gravity to try the case of a young man charged with many murders. It has been his habit, apparently, to tell each of his victims a joke, wait for him to laugh and while he is still happy, to strike him a lethal blow with an iron bar. His defence is that he has been seeking a logical pretext for wearing mourning, and honour has not allowed him to mourn for people he did not know personally.

This trial has some delightful passages. They nearly all depend, however, on the same joke, as do passages rather less delightful. Mr. Simpson has agreed in an earlier play, *A Resounding Table*, that it takes a trained mind, one thoroughly conversant with the ways of reason, to relish a *non-sequitur*. One here and there is indeed infinitely reliable, but a play wholly composed of *non-sequiturs* is as hard to digest as a play wholly composed of puns.

Services for Christmas Eve

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 M; 11 S Euch & Procession to the Crib, Missa de Angelis, The Angels and the Shepherds (arr. Trevor), Rev Dr C A Lewis; 3 Cathedral Carol Service; 5 E, Responses (Rose), Purcell in E minor, The truth from above (Vaughan Williams); (the nearest Midnight Communion Services are at St Paul's, St Peter's & St Mildred's Churches at 11.30pm).
YORK MINSTER: 8, 8.45 HC; 9.30 M; 10.15 S Euch, Missa Cantuariensis (Moore), Canon R Metcalfe; 12 Blessing of the Crib; 3 EP; 4 Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols.
ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL: 8 HC, Responses (Rutter); 10.30 M, Benedictus (Byrd), Benedicite (Batten), Rev C Hill; 11.30 HC, The Short Service (Willis), There is no Rose (anon), Responses (Aylewarde); 3.15 E, Dyson in F, O little town of Bethlehem (Walford Davies), I sing of a maiden (Hadley), A spotless rose (Howells), Sussex Carol (arr Willcocks), Rt Rev J Crowley; *11.30 Midnight Mass, Messe de Minuit (Charpentier), Rev P Ball.
WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 8 HC; 10 M, Responses (Neary), Benedicite in B flat (Purcell), This is the record of John (Gibbons), Canon A Harvey; 3 Service of Lessons & Carols; 5 E; *11.30 Midnight Euch, the Vasari Singers, The Dean.
SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: 9 HC; 11 Euch, Messe cum Jubilo (Duruflé), There is no rose (anon), De caelo veniet (Handl), Canon P Price; 3 Carol Service, Prayers at the Crib; *11.30 Midnight Euch, Spatzenmesse (Mozart), Let all mortal flesh keep silence (Bairstow), I sing of a maiden (Berkeley), Bishop of Southwark.
WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL: 7, 8, 9, 10.30 SM, Mass for five voices (Byrd), Ave Maria (Parsons), Veni Domine (Esquivel), Kommst du nun, Jesu (Bach); 12 Mass; 2.30 Organ Recital; 4.15 Pontifical First Vespers of Christmas, Magnificat octavi toni (Marenzio), O magnum mysterium (Poulenc), In Dulci Jubilo (Bach); 5.30 Vigil Mass; *11.15 Vigil & Midnight Mass, Mass in G (Schubert), For unto us a child is born, Dieu parmi nous (Messiaen), The Cardinal.
ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL, Southwark: 8, 10, 6 LM; 11.30 HM, Adventus (Plainsong), Wake Awake (Bach), Fr M Jones; *11.30 Midnight Mass, Spatzen (Mozart), Pueri Concinite (Herbeck).
CATHEDRAL OF THE DIVINE WISDOM, Greek Orthodox, Moscow Rd, W2: 9.30 M; 11 Divine Liturgy.
CATHEDRAL OF THE DORMITION OF THE MOTHER OF GOD, Russian Orthodox, Ennismore Gdns, SW7: 10.30 Divine Liturgy.
CATHEDRAL OF ST SAVVA, Serbian Orthodox, Lancaster Rd, W11: 10.30 Divine Liturgy.

THE CHAPEL ROYAL, St James's Palace: 8.30 HC; 11.15 MP, Rejoice in the Lord alway (Purcell), Canon R W Bevan.
QUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY, WC2: 11.15 Service of Lessons & Carols (Public welcomed).
ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL, Greenwich, SE10: 10.30 HC.
GUARDS CHAPEL, Wellington Barracks, SW1: 11 M; 12 HC, Gabriel's Message (trad.), Magnificat, Rejoice in the Lord (Purcell), Grenadier Guards, The Chaplain; *11.30 Midnight HC, Darke in F, The Chaplain.
TOWER OF LONDON, EC3: 11.30 HC.
TEMPLE CHURCH, Fleet Street, EC4: 8.30 HC; 11.15 MP, Responses (Smith), Harris in A, Thalben-Ball in C, Rejoice in the Lord alway (Purcell), Christ was born on Christmas Day (arr. Willcocks), The Master.
ST CLEMENT DANES (RAF Church) WC2: 9 HC, Rev W J D Sirr; 11 M, Murrill in E, Stanford in C, This is the record of John (Gibbons), The Chaplain; 12.15 HC; *11.30 Midnight Mass, First Mass in C (Mozart), O magnum mysterium (Victoria), Ven B N Halfpenny.
CHAPEL ROYAL, Hampton Court Palace: 8.30 HC; 11 M, Boyce in C, This is the record (Gibbons), The Chaplain; 3.30 E, Cantate Domino (Dering), Aston in F, There is no rose (Popplewell); *11.30 Midnight Mass of the Nativity.

ALL HALLOWS BY THE TOWER: 11 Said Communion.
ALL SAINTS, Margaret Street, W1: 8, 5.15 LM; 11 HM, Missa Iste Confessor (Palestrina), Ave Maria (Bruckner), Rev S J Hobbs; 6 E; *12 Midnight Mass, St Nicholas Mass (Haydn), Hodie Christus natus est (Sweelinck), The Vicar.
ALL SOULS, Langham Place, W1: 9.30 HC, Rev Dr J Stott; 6.30; 11.30 Communion Service, Preb R Bewes.
CHELSEA OLD CHURCH, Old Church Street, SW3: 8, 12 HC; 11 M, Preb C E L Thomson; *11.45 Midnight Communion.
CHRIST CHURCH, CHELSEA, SW3: 8 HC; 11 S Euch, Rev M Butchers.
GROSVENOR CHAPEL, South Audley Street: 8.15 HC; 11 S Euch, Kyrie (Sheppard), Agnus Dei (Sheppard), Ave Maria (Parsons), Rev A W Marks; 10.45 Carols; 11.15 Midnight Mass.
HOLY TRINITY, Brompton Road, SW7: 11 HC, Rev J A K Millar; 6.30 ES, Rev N G P Gumbel.
HOLY TRINITY, Prince Consort Road, SW7: 8.30, 12.15 HC; 11 MP, Rev Dr M Israel.
HOLY TRINITY, Sloane Street, SW1: 8.30, 12.10 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Rev K L Yates.
ST ALBAN'S, Brooke St, EC1: 9.30 SM; 11 HM, Missa O magnum mysterium (Victoria), Preb J Gaskell; 5.30 LM; *12 Midnight HM, Mass in G major (Schubert), Fr P Baker.
ST BRIDE'S, Fleet Street, EC4: 11 M & Euch, Purcell in C, Wood in the Phrygian mode, Jesu the very thought of thee (Bairstow), Canon J Oates; 6.30 Service of Nine Lessons & Carols, Canon J Oates; *11.30 Candlelit Midnight Mass, Canon Oates.
ST CUTHBERT'S, Philbeach Gardens SW5: 10 HC; 11 S Euch, Gibbons in F, Rev J Vine; *11.45 Midnight Mass, Ireland in C, Nativity Carol (Rutter).
ST GEORGE'S, Bloomsbury, WC1: 10 Parish Communion; 6.30 E.
ST GEORGE'S, Hanover Square, W1: 8.30 HC; 11 S Euch, Short Service (Batten), Almighty and Everlasting God (Gibbons), The Rector.
ST GILES-IN-THE-FIELDS, St Giles High St, WC2: 8, 12 HC; 11 MP, Rev P J Galloway; 6 EP; 6.30 Carols & Lessons; 11.45 Midnight HC.
ST JAMES'S, Muswell Hill, N10: 8 HC; 11 Children's Carols, Rev G Williams; 11.30 Communion Service.
ST JAMES'S, Piccadilly, W1: 8.30 HC; 11 S Euch; 5.45 EP.
ST JAMES'S, Sussex Gardens, W2: 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Collegium Regale (Howells), A maiden most gentle (Carter), The Vicar; 5.30 Carols round the Crib with Paddington Bear; 11.30 Midnight Mass, Darke in F, Carols, The Vicar.
ST JOHN'S, Hyde Park Crescent, W2: 8 HC; 10 Parish Euch with Sunday School, Rev T Birchard; 5.30 Carols at the Crib, Rev R Callaghan; *11.30 Midnight Mass, Rev T Harkin.
ST JOHN THE DIVINE, Vassall Rd, SW9: 8 LM; 10 HM, Messe pour les paroisses (Couperin), Fr Caddick; 11.15 Carols; 11.45 HM, St Nicholas Mass (Haydn), Balulalow (Warlock), Fr Beaver.
ST LUKE'S, Chelsea, SW3: 8 HC; 10.30 MP, Rev S Watson; 11.30 Midnight Euch, Christmas Concerto (Corelli), Schubert in G, Rev D Watson.
ST MARK'S, Regent's Park Rd, NW1: 8 Mass; 10 Family Communion; 11 S Euch & Holy Baptism, Missa secunda (Hassler), Angels' Carol (Rutter), Rev T Devonshire Jones; 3.30 Children's Christmas; *11 30 Midnight Mass & Blessing of the Crib, Missa Sancta Joannis de Deo (Haydn), Carols, Rev T Devonshire Jones.
ST MARGARET'S, Westminster, SW1: 11 15 Abbey Euch, O magnum mysterium (Vittoria), The Dean; 11 45 Midnight Euch, Dominus dixit ad me (tone xiii), Missa brevis in F (Mozart), O magnum mysterium (Poulenc), Lullay my liking (Holst), Rev R Holloway.
ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS, WC2: 8 HC; 9.45 Euch, Mr D Board; 11 30 MP, Rev M Henwood; 2.45 Chinese Service (Carols), Rev S Y Lee; 6.30 ES, Parish Carol Service; *11.30 Midnight Mass, The Vicar.
ST MARY'S, Bourne Street, SW1: 9, 9.45 LM; 11 HM, Missa quarti toni (Victoria), Ave Maria (Victoria), Ecce concipies (Handl), Fr J Gilling; 6.15 Said Evensong and Benediction *11.30 Carols followed by Midnight Mass, Missa brevis in D (Mozart), Hodie Christus natus est (Gabrieli), Ave verum corpus (Mozart), Fr N Kavanagh.
ST MARYLEBONE, Marylebone Road, W1: 8 HC; 11 S Euch, Mass (Merbecke), Rev I Brown; *11.30 Midnight Mass, Missa sancti Nicolai (Haydn), For unto us a child is born (Handel), Rev C Hamel Cooke.
ST MICHAEL'S, Chester Square, SW1: 8.15 HC; 11 MP, Rev D C L Prior; *11.30 Midnight Communion, Rev J Crossley.
ST MICHAEL'S, Cornhill, EC3: 11 M, Rejoice in the Lord alway (att. Redford), Responses (Smith of Durham), Walford Davies in G, Thalben-Ball in B flat, Prepare ye the way of the Lord (Wise), The Rector.
ST PAUL'S, Onslow Square, SW7: 10.30 Morning Service, Rev T Gillum.
ST PAUL'S, Wilton Place, SW1: 8, 9 HC; 11 S Euch, Rev H Ruschmeyer; 5 Children's Service; *11.30 Midnight Euch, Missa brevis in C major (Mozart), Carols, Rev C Courtauld.
ST SIMON ZELOTES, Milner Street, SW3: 8 HC; 11 MP, Stanford in B flat, Hilda Jones; *11.45 Midnight Communion, Merbecke, Ven T Raphael.
ST STEPHEN'S, Gloucester Road, SW7: 8, 9 LM; 11 SM, Missa Petre ego pro te rogavi (Lobo), Fr C Colven; *12 Midnight SM & Blessing of the Crib, Communion Service in C (Purcell), Fr C Colven.
ST VEDAST, Foster Lane, EC2: *11 15 Carols; *11.30 SM with Blessing of the Crib, Messe Basse (Fauré), Rev R Avent.
THE ANNUNCIATION, Bryanston Street, W1: 11 SM, Missa 'Douce Memoire' (Lassus), Rorate caeli desuper (Handl); 6 LM & B; *11.30 Mass for the Nativity of the Lord, Missa festiva (Grechaninov). All this time (Walton).

ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Pont Street, SW1: 11 Rev J H McIndoe; *11.30 Candlelight Service.
CROWN COURT CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Covent Garden, WC2: 11 15, 6.30 The Minister; *11.30 Watch Night Service.
THE ASSUMPTION Warwick Street, W1: 8, 10, 12, 4, 6 LM; *11 30 Carols, Coronation Mass (Mozart).
CHURCH OF OUR LADY, Lisson Grove, St John's Wood: 10.45 Mass; *11 15 Midnight Mass, Carols, Missa Sancti Nicolai (Haydn).
FARM STREET, W1: 7 30, 8.30, 10, 12.15, 4 15, 6.15 LM, 11 HM; *11 30 Midnight Mass, Messe Breve (Gounod), Hodie nobis (Maleingreau), Props est Dominus (Haydn).
THE ORATORY, Brompton Road, SW7: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 Mass, Missa Dixit Maria (Hassler), Veni veni Emmanuel (Kodaly), 12.30, 4 30, 5.30 V & B, Ecce Concipies (Handl); *12 Midnight Mass, Stanford Mass in G.
ST ETHELDREDA'S, Ely Place: 11 SM, Missa brevis (Seiber), Ave Maria (Kodaly), Dessiene Eternal (Messaien); Midnight Mass, Mass in G (Schubert), Grand Dieu Naquit a Noel (Daquin).
ST MARY'S, Cadogan Street, SW3: 8.30, 10, 11 Quinti Toni (Lassus), Alma Redemptoris (Palestrina), Ecce concipies (Handl), 12 15, 6.30.
OUR LADY OF VICTORIES, Kensington High Street, W8: 8.30, 10, 12.30, 6.30 LM; 11.15 SM, Mass for four voices (Byrd), Rorate caeli desuper (Palestrina); 11 30 Carols for congregation & Choir, Messe de Minuit (Charpentier), Adeste fideles (trad.)
AMERICAN CHURCH IN LONDON, Tottenham Court Rd, W1: 11 Rev Ron F Allison.
CITY TEMPLE, Holborn, EC1: 11 Rev E Waugh.
HINDE STREET METHODIST CHURCH, W1: 11 Rev P Hoar/Rev L Griffiths; *11.30 Communion Service, Rev P Hoar.
KENSINGTON TEMPLE, (Charismatic), Notting Hill Gate, W11: 9, 11 Wynne Lewis; 2.30 Vic Van Den Bergh; 6.30 Colin Dye; *11 William Atkinson.
REGENT SQUARE PRESBYTERIAN URC, Tavistock Place, WC1: 11 Rev Dr R Scopes.
SALVATION ARMY (Regent Hall), Oxford St W1: 11, 6.30; 3 Musical Programme, Major & Mrs C Hunt.
ST ANNE AND ST AGNES (Lutheran), Gresham St, EC2: 11 HC, Rev R T Englund; 7 Family Carols & Readings; *11 Midnight HC, Rev R T Englund.
ST JOHN'S WOOD URC, NW8: 11 Rev W C McCrorie.
WESLEY'S CHAPEL, City Road, EC2: 9.45 HC, Rev P Hulme; 11 Morning Service, Rev P Hulme; *11 30 Midnight Mass.
WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL (Methodist), SW1: 11 Rev Dr R J Tudor; *11.30 Candlelight Communion.
WESTMINSTER CHAPEL, Buckingham Gate, SW1: 11, 6.30 Rev Dr R T Kendall.
WESTMINSTER MEETING SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (Quakers), 52 St Martins La WC2: 11, Meeting for worship.

* *indicates Midnight Service*

Services for Christmas Day

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M, Come all ye faithful Christians (Vaughan Williams), Responses (Rose), Britten in E, Britten in C, Hodie Christus natus est (Poulenc); 11 S Euch, Stanford in B flat, Quem pastores (arr. Rutter), The Archbishop; 3.15 E, Responses (Rose), Wood in F.
YORK MINSTER: 7.15, 8, 8.45 HC; 10 S Euch, Missa Brevis in B flat, O magnum mysterium (Gabrieli), The Archbishop; 11.30 M, Noble in B minor, Very Rev J Southgate; 4 E, Dyson in D, Hodie Christus natus est (Sweelinck).
ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 M, Britten in E flat, Britten in C, Very Rev E Evans; 11.30 HC, Messe de Minuit (Charpentier), Hodie Christus natus est (Poulenc), The Bishop of London; 3.15 E, Stanford in C, Christians be joyful (Bach), In dulci jubilo (Scheidt).
WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 8 HC; 10.30 Abbey Euch, Stanford in B flat (Coronation Gloria), The Dean; 3 E, Murrill in E, Sussex Carol (Willcocks).
SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: 11 Euch, St Nicolas Mass (Haydn), Ave verum corpus (Elgar), Nativity Carol (Rutter), The Provost.
WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL: 7, 8, 9, 10.30 SM, Missa Sancti Nicolai (Haydn), Hodie Christus natus est (Poulenc), O magnum mysterium (Victoria), Fantasia 'Adeste Fideles' (Hakim); 12 Mass; 3.30 V & B, Magnificat octavi toni (Bevan), In the bleak mid-winter (Darke), A spotless rose (Howells), Le Verbe (Messiaen).

THE CHAPEL ROYAL, St James's Palace: 8.30 HC; 11.15 S Euch, Stanford in C, Canon A D Caesar.
QUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY, WC2: 8.30 HC; 11 S Euch, Darke in F, Rev J Robson.
ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL, Greenwich, SE10: 10.30 Euch with Carols, The Chaplain.
GUARDS CHAPEL, Wellington Barracks, SW1: 11 M; 12 HC, Hodie Christus natus est (Sweelinck), Of the Father's heart begotten (Cantiones), The Irish Guards, Rev J Harkness.
GRAY'S INN CHAPEL: 8.30 HC, Canon E James.
TEMPLE CHURCH, Fleet Street, EC4: 8.30 HC; 11.15 MP & HC, Break forth O beauteous heavenly light (Bach), Responses (Thalben-Ball), Stanford in C, Walford-Davies in G 'Festal', Gloria in excelsis Deo (Weelkes), Sing lullaby, The Chaplain.
ST CLEMENT DANES (RAF Church) WC2: 9 HC, Rev W J D Sirr; 11 Euch Darke in F, O little one sweet (Bach), The Chaplain.
CHAPEL ROYAL, Hampton Court Palace: 8.30, 12.15 HC; 11 M, Stanford in C, On this day (Stewart), The Chaplain.

ALL SAINTS, Margaret Street, W1: 8 LM; 11 HM, Missa brevis in D (Mozart), Hodie Christus natus est (Poulenc), Rev G A Reddington.
ALL SOULS, Langham Place, W1: 9 HC, Rev I Bentley; 10.30 Family Service.
CHELSEA OLD CHURCH, Old Church Street, SW3: 8, 12 HC; 10 Children's Service; 11 M, Preb C E L Thomson.
CHRIST CHURCH, CHELSEA, SW3: 8, 12 HC; 11 Christmas Service, Rev S Watson.
GROSVENOR CHAPEL, South Audley Street: 8.15 HC; 11 S Euch.
HOLY TRINITY, Prince Consort Road, SW7: 8.30 HC; 11 MP & HC, Rev Dr M Israel.
ST ALBAN'S, Brooke St, EC1: 9.30 LM; 11 SM, Preb J Gaskell.
ST BRIDE'S, Fleet Street, EC4: 11 Family Euch.
ST CUTHBERT'S, Philbeach Gardens SW5: 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Rev J Vine.
ST GEORGE'S, Bloomsbury, WC1: 10 Parish Communion; 6.30 E.
ST GEORGE'S, Hanover Square, W1: 8.30 HC; 11 S Euch, Darke in F, And I saw three ships (trad.), The Rector.
ST JAMES'S, Garlickhythe, EC4: 10.30 S Euch, Rev J Paul.
ST JAMES'S, Muswell Hill, N10: 10.30 Family Service, Rev M Bunker; 11.30 HC.
ST JAMES'S, Sussex Gardens, W2: 8 HC; 10.30 Family Euch, Weber in G, Carols, Mr G Buckle.
ST JOHN'S, Hyde Park Crescent, W2: 8, 6.30 HC; 10 Parish Euch with Sunday School, Rev T Birchard.
ST JOHN THE DIVINE, Vassall Rd, SW9: 8 LM; 10 HM, Mass in E (Darke), Bethlehem Down (Warlock), Fr Dennen.
ST LUKE'S, Chelsea, SW3: 8, 11.30 HC; 10.30 Christmas Service; 1 Joint Christmas lunch at Chelsea Methodist Church, (tickets from parish office).
ST MARK'S, Regents Park Rd, NW1: 8 Mass; 10.30 Parish Euch, The Parish Mass (Cole), Carols, Rev T Devonshire Jones.
ST MARGARET'S, Westminster, SW1: 11 M, Hodie Christus natus est (tone ii), Responses (Rose), Stanford in B flat, Tomorrow shall be my dancing day (Gardner), The Rector; 12.15 HC.
ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS, WC2: 8 HC; 9.45 Euch, Rev M Henwood; 11.30 MP, Rev J Pridmore; 2.45 Chinese Service (HC), Rev G Lee; 6.30 EP, Rev M Henwood.
ST MARY ABBOTS, Kensington, W8: 8, 12.30 HC; 9.30 S Euch, The Vicar; 11.15 M, The Vicar; 4 E.
ST MARY'S, Bourne Street, SW1: 9, 9.45 LM; 11 HM, Missa octavi toni (Lassus), Carols, Fr J Gilling
ST MARYLEBONE, Marylebone Road, W1: 8 HC; 11 Euch, Spatzenmesse (Mozart), In dulci jubilo (Pearsall), Rev R McLaren
ST MICHAEL'S, Chester Square, SW1: 8 15, 12 15 HC; 11 Family Service, Rev D C L Prior
ST MICHAEL'S, Cornhill, EC3: 11 Euch, Missa O quam gloriosum (Victoria), Hodie Christus natus est (Sweelinck), The Rector.
ST PAUL'S, Wilton Place, SW1: 8, 9 HC; 11 S Euch, Missa Sancti Johannis de Deo (Haydn), My heart ever faithful (Bach), Rev F Harris.
ST SIMON ZELOTES, Milner Street, SW3: 11 HC (Merbecke).
ST STEPHEN'S, Gloucester Road, SW7: 8, 9 Mass of the Dawn; 11 SM, Missa O magnum mysterium (Victoria), Fr J Towers.
THE ANNUNCIATION, Bryanston Street, W1: 11 SM, Messe aux Convents (Gounod), Make we joy now in this Fest (Walton).
ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Pont Street, SW1: 10 HC; 11 Family Service.
CROWN COURT CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Covent Garden, WC2: 11 Festival of the Incarnation, 12 HC, The Minister.
CHURCH OF OUR LADY, Lisson Grove, St John's Wood: 10.45, Missa Bel Anfitrit Altera (Lassus), O Beatum et sacro sanctum diem (Philips).
FARM STREET, W1: 7 30, 8.30, 10, 12 15, 4.15, 6 15 LM; 11 HM Missa Sancti Nicolai (Haydn) Resonet in laudibus (Handl), Dies sanctificatus
THE ORATORY, Brompton Road, SW7: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 Mass, St Nicholas Mass (Haydn), 12.30, 4.30.
OUR LADY OF VICTORIES, Kensington High Street, W8: 8 30, 10, 12.30 LM; 11 15 SM, Missa Ad Praesepe (Malcolm), Adeste fideles (arr Washington).
HINDE STREET METHODIST CHURCH, W1: 10.30 Christmas Day Service.
KENSINGTON TEMPLE, (Charismatic), Notting Hill Gate, W11: 10 Colin Dye.
REGENT SQUARE PRESBYTERIAN URC, Tavistock Place, WC1: 10 Rev Dr R Scopes.
ST ANNE AND ST AGNES (Lutheran), Gresham St, EC2: 11 HC, Rev Dr J Schneider.
WESLEY'S CHAPEL, City Road, EC2: 10.30 Family Service, Rev P Hulme.
WESTMINSTER CHAPEL, Buckingham Gate, SW1: 11 Rev Dr R T Kendall.

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Small advance

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began December 11. Dealings ended yesterday. §Contango day December 27. Settlement day January 8. §Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at 4 pm. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (aa) denotes Alpha Stocks.

Portfolio PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add these prices to your running total for the week and check this against the weekly dividend figure on this page. If it matches this figure, you have won outright or a share of the total weekly prize money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Gain or loss
1	Bardon Group	Building,Roads	
2	Banks (Sidney C)	Foods	
3	APG	Industrials A-D	
4	Walker Greenbank	Industrials S-Z	
5	Jessups	Motors,Aircraft	
6	Hanover Druce	Property	
7	Strong & Fisher	Shoes, Leather	
8	Marley	Building,Roads	
9	Eurotherm	Electricals	
10	BAA (aa)	Industrials A-D	
11	Robertson	Industrials L-R	
12	Costain	Building,Roads	
13	Rothschild (J) Hld	Banks,Discount	
14	Wilson (Connolly)	Building,Roads	
15	ASDA Group (aa)	Foods	
16	Borland	Electricals	
17	Miller (Stanley)	Building,Roads	
18	Friendly Hotels	Hotels,Caterers	
19	Abbey National (aa)	Banks,Discount	
20	APV	Industrials A-D	
21	Rothmans 'B' (aa)	Tobaccos	
22	Evans Of Leeds	Property	
23	Edbro	Industrials E-K	
24	Burton (aa)	Drapery,Stores	
25	Erskine Hse	Industrials E-K	
26	Tms Products	Drapery,Stores	
27	Ratners Group	Drapery,Stores	
28	Br Telecom (aa)	Electricals	
29	Bradford	Property	
30	Lex Refrigeration	Electricals	
31	Wiggins	Building,Roads	
32	Berkeley Gp	Building,Roads	
33	Fisons (aa)	Industrials E-K	
34	Unigate (aa)	Foods	
35	GKN (aa)	Industrials E-K	
36	Sheraton Secs	Property	
37	Unigroup	Industrials S-Z	
38	BSS Group	Industrials A-D	
39	Liberty	Drapery,Stores	
40	Lloyds (aa)	Banks,Discount	
41	CH Ind	Industrials A-D	
42	Fenner (JH)	Industrials E-K	
43	Wellcome (aa)	Industrials S-Z	
44	Aus New Z	Banks,Discount	
	© Times Newspapers Ltd.	Daily Total	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £12,000 in today's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	Weekly Total

Portfolio PLATINUM

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WEEKLY DIVIDEND £12,000

Claims required for +209 points

Claimants should ring 0254-53272

BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS (Under Five Years)

1989 High	Low	Stock		Price	Ch'ge	Int. only yld%	Gross Red yld%
99¼	97⅞	Treas	3% 1989	99¼	..	3.06	8.200
99⅞	95	Treas C	9½% 1989	99⅝	..	9.51	12.436
93⅝	87⅝	Exch	2½% 1990	93¼	+⅛	2.8	10.633
96½	91⅞	Treas	3% 1990	96¼	..	3.0	12.187
98⅜	91⅝	Treas	8% 1990	97⅝	● ..	8.3	11.803
97⅞	92⅝	Treas	8¼% 1987-90	97⅞	..	8.4	13.734
98⅝	92⅝	Treas	10% 1990	97	..	10.2	12.404
99⅞	93⅞	Exch	11% 1990	99¼	..	11.0	15.458
101⅜	93⅝	Exch	12½% 1990	99⅝	..	12.5	14.735
101⅜	93⅞	Treas	13% 1990	99⅝	● ..	13.0	15.526
90⅝	85⅝	Treas	3% 1991	90⅛	..	3.3	10.422
93⅝	88⅝	Fund	5¾% 1987-91	93⅞	+⅛	6.1	11.917
94⅞	88	Treas	8% 1991	92¼	..	8.6	12.612
100⅛	90⅝	Treas C	10% 1991	96	● ..	10.3	11.906
101⅛	93	Exch	11% 1991	97⅛	..	11.3	12.670
101⅝	92⅝	Treas	11¾% 1991	98¼	● ..	11.9	13.800
86⅝	82⅝	Treas	3% 1992	84⅝	..	3.53	10.133
94	88⅝	Treas	8% 1992	92⅝	..	8.69	12.059
99⅞	92⅞	Treas	10% 1992	96	..	10.4	12.092
100⅞	91⅞	Treas C	10% 1992	97⅞	..	10.6	11.243
105⅞	97⅞	Exch	12¼% 1992	100⅞	..	12.1	11.842
106⅞	95⅞	Treas	12½% 1992	101⅞	● ..	12.5	12.086
109⅞	100	Exch	13½% 1992	104⅞	..	12.9	11.653
88	84	Fund	6% 1993	85⅞	..	6.9	10.680
94⅞	87⅞	Treas	8¾% 1993	91⅞	..	9.0	11.486
100⅞	92⅞	Treas	10% 1993	96⅞	..	10.3	11.273
108⅞	97⅞	Treas	12½% 1993	103⅞	● ..	12.1	11.389
113⅞	101⅞	Treas	13¾% 1993	107⅞	..	12.7	11.288

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

1989 High	Low	Stock		Price	Ch'ge	Int. only yld%	Gross Red yld%
94⅞	88	Treas	8½% 1994	91	..	9.3	11.297
92	82	Treas	8½% 1994	82	..	..	..
98⅞	87⅞	Treas	9% 1994	92⅞	..	9.7	10.979
100⅞	91⅞	Treas	10% 1994	96⅞	..	10.3	11.030
110⅞	101⅞	Exch	12½% 1994	104⅞	..	11.9	11.190
113⅞	102⅞	Exch	13½% 1994	107⅞	..	12.5	11.226
117⅞	107⅞	Treas	14½% 1994	111⅞	..	13.0	11.080
79⅞	72	Gas	3% 1990-95	76⅞	+⅛	4.0	9.420
101⅞	90⅞	Exch	10¼% 1995	97⅞	● ..	10.5	10.965
108⅞	97⅞	Treas	12% 1995	103⅞	● ..	11.5	11.097
113⅞	101⅞	Treas	12¾% 1995	108	..	11.7	10.847
97⅞	90⅞	Treas	9% 1992-96	92⅞	..	9.7	10.748
101⅞	91⅞	Conv	10% 1996	96⅞	..	10.3	10.741
117⅞	99⅞	Exch	13¼% 1996	110⅞	..	11.9	10.849
119⅞	105⅞	Treas	14% 1996	112⅞	● ..	12.4	11.068
126⅞	113	Treas	15¼% 1996	119⅞	..	12.7	10.910
95⅞	88⅞	Treas	8¾% 1997	91⅞	..	9.6	10.468
104⅞	95⅞	Exch	10½% 1997	99	..	10.6	10.689
118⅞	104⅞	Treas	13¼% 1997	112	●+⅛	11.8	10.781
128⅞	115⅞	Exch	15% 1997	121	..	12.3	10.927
84⅞	78⅞	Treas	6¾% 1995-98	81⅞	..	8.30	10.135
100⅞	89⅞	Exch	9¾% 1998	95⅞	● ..	10.1	10.656
127⅞	100⅞	Exch	12% 1998	107⅞	..	11.1	10.670
134⅞	123⅞	Treas	15½% 1998	126⅞	-⅛	12.2	10.752
100⅞	88⅞	Treas	9½% 1999	95⅞	● ..	9.96	10.308
104⅞	92⅞	Conv	10¼% 1999	98⅞	+⅛	10.4	10.520
105⅞	93⅞	Treas	10½% 1999	99⅞	+⅛	10.5	10.535
115⅞	106⅞	Exch	12¼% 1999	109⅞	..	11.2	10.694
94⅞	84	Treas	8½% 2000	89⅞	●+⅛	9.5	10.238
97⅞	88⅞	Conv	9% 2000	92⅞	..	9.7	10.248
122⅞	107⅞	Treas	13% 2000	114⅞	● ..	11.3	10.664
102⅞	92⅞	Conv	9¾% 2001	96⅞	..	10.1	10.312
103⅞	94⅞	Treas	10% 2001	97⅞	..	10.2	10.348
124⅞	109	Treas	14% 1998-01	117	..	11.9	10.847
97⅞	86⅞	Exch	9% 2002	91⅞	..	9.8	10.150
102⅞	93⅞	Treas	9¾% 2002	96⅞	..	10.0	10.227
104⅞	95⅞	Conv	10% 2002	98⅞	..	10.1	10.247
114	99⅞	Exch	12% 1999-02	107⅞	● ..	11.1	10.724
105⅞	96⅞	Treas	10% 2003	99⅞	..	10.0	10.077
127	112	Treas	13¾% 2000-03	119	● ..	11.5	10.705

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

1989 High	Low	Stock		Price	Ch'ge	Int. only yld%	Gross Red yld%
59⅞	53⅞	Fund	3½% 1999-04	56⅞	● ..	6.17	8.850
102⅞	88⅞	Conv	9½% 2004	95⅞	..	9.8	9.957
106⅞	93⅞	Treas	10% 2004	99⅞	..	10.0	10.036
113⅞	103⅞	Treas	11½% 2001-04	106⅞	..	10.8	10.511
103⅞	93⅞	Conv	9½% 2005	96⅞	..	9.83	9.932
111⅞	101⅞	Exch	10½% 2005	104⅞	..	10.0	9.937
125⅞	110	Treas	12½% 2003-05	117⅞	..	10.6	10.102
90⅞	82⅞	Treas	8% 2002-06	84⅞	..	9.4	9.865
96⅞	83⅞	Treas	8½% 2007	90	● ..	9.4	9.699
118⅞	103⅞	Treas	11¾% 2003-07	111⅞	● ..	10.5	10.128
101	91⅞	Treas	9% 2008	94⅞	..	9.5	9.656
134⅞	122⅞	Treas	13½% 2004-08	125⅞	..	10.7	10.051
92⅞	83	Treas	8% 2009	86⅞	..	9.3	9.603
102	87⅞	Conv	9% 2011	94⅞	● ..	9.4	9.582
68⅞	61⅞	Treas	5½% 2008-12	63⅞	..	8.6	9.409
89⅞	78⅞	Treas	7¾% 2012-15	83⅞	..	9.3	9.541
132⅞	114⅞	Exch	12% 2013-17	122⅞	..	9.8	9.600

UNDATED

1989 High	Low	Stock		Price	Ch'ge	Int. only yld%	Gross Red yld%
30⅞	24⅞	Consols	2½%	25⅞	● ..	9.5	—
45⅞	40	Consols	4%	41⅞	..	9.6	—
70⅞	60⅞	Conv	3½%	62	..	5.7	—
29⅞	24⅞	Treas	2½%	25⅞	..	9.8	—
41⅞	31⅞	Treas	3%	32⅞	..	9.3	—
40⅞	34⅞	War Ln	3½%	36⅞	..	9.5	—

INDEX-LINKED

1989 High	Low	Stock		Price	Ch'ge
134⅞	124	Treas IL	2% 1990	134⅞	●+⅛
112⅞	103⅞	Treas IL	2% 1992	112⅞	+⅛
105⅞	94⅞	Treas IL	2% 1994	105⅞	+⅛
155⅞	139⅞	Treas IL	2% 1996	155⅞	+⅛
131⅞	118⅞	Treas IL	2½% 2001	131⅞	
128⅞	115⅞	Treas IL	2½% 2003	128	
131⅞	117⅞	Treas IL	2% 2006	131⅞	●
122⅞	111⅞	Treas IL	2½% 2009	122⅞	
128	114⅞	Treas IL	2½% 2011	128	
108⅞	94⅞	Treas IL	2½% 2013	108⅞	+⅛
115⅞	102⅞	Treas IL	2½% 2016	115⅞	●+⅛
112⅞	100⅞	Treas IL	2½% 2020	112⅞	
95⅞	84⅞	Treas IL	2½% 2024	95⅞	●

BANKS, DISCOUNT HP

1989 High	Low	Company	Bid	Offer	Ch'ge	Gross div p	Yld %	P/E
175	130	Abbey National (aa)	173	175	+1	10.3	5.9	7.1
234	120	Allied Irish	223	230	..	..	..	..
538	285	Anglo Gp	340	360	●-3	4.4	1.3	13.9
80	57	Ansbacher (Henry)	73	77	..	2.7	3.6	26.6
288	218	Aus New Z	288	292	+6	..	..	..
314	225	Bank of Ireland	258	268	-1	..	..	..
350	340	Bank Leumi UK	335	355	..	18.5	5.4	8.7
117	88	Bank Of Scotland	115	117	..	5.2	4.6	8.4
57	49	Bank Of Wales	50	57	..	3.7	6.9	12.4
598	404	Barclays (aa)	555	560	+3	32.5	5.8	6.4
30	22	Beneficial	20	23	..	2.2	10.0	10.9
383	285	Brown Shipley	330	340	●	14.7	4.4	21.6
450	325	Cater Allen	425	435	●	31.3	7.3	13.9
78	61	Cattles	60	63	..	4.6	7.3	8.8
259	157	Chancery	160	167	● ..	11.5	7.0	7.3
250	183	Close Bros	232	242	..	8.8	3.6	15.3
261	182	First Nat Fin	228	233	..	16.7	7.2	6.5
47	10	GPG	13	13	-1	0.5	3.5	..
295	230	Gerrard Nat	290	300	..	24.7	8.4	66.4
157	118	Guinness Mahon	145	152	..	2.8	1.9	16.9
486	423	Joseph (Leopold)	430	473	●+5	21.1	4.6	19.2
141	115	King & Shaxson	123	128	..	12.9	10.3	13.1
415	284	Kleinwort Benson	385	390	-1	18.7	4.8	58.3
443	319	Lloyds (aa)	435	438	+3	23.8	5.4	5.4
386	280	Midland (aa)	383	387	+7	22.6	5.9	7.3
592	257	Morgan Gren	538	544	..	15.0	2.8	72.0

BREWERIES

1989 High	Low	Company	Bid	Offer	Ch'ge	Gross div p	Yld %	P/E
574	427	Allied-Lyons (aa)	486	488	●-2	20.9	4.3	12.7
494	413	Wolverhampton & D	420	434	-3	10.9	2.6	13.6
535	475	Young 'A'	480	500	..	14.7	3.0	20.3

BUILDING, ROADS

1989 High	Low	Company	Bid	Offer	Ch'ge	Gross div p	Yld %	P/E
204	105	Abbey	108	110	..	..	..	..
536	328	Amec	435	445	●+8	24.0	5.5	8.2
144	61	YRM	102	107	-1	5.1	4.9	6.2

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

1989 High	Low	Company	Bid	Offer	Ch'ge	Gross div p	Yld %	P/E
183	118½	Allied Colloids	156	159	..	3.7	2.3	17.6
532	339	Amersham	337	343	●-1	14.9	4.4	18.0
182	108	BTP	135	136	●+2	9.7	7.1	13.3
150	111	Yule Catto	130	135	..	5.5	4.1	11.2

DRAPERY, STORES

1989 High	Low	Company	Bid	Offer	Ch'ge	Gross div p	Yld %	P/E
423	314	Alexon	365	380	●+2	15.3	3.9	11.1
72½	49	Amber Day	41	43	+½	2.0	4.8	12.5
131	68	Aquascutum 'A'	119	124	● ..	4.0	3.3	19.1
128	68	Ashley (Laura)	77	81	● ..	3.1	3.9	12.2
425	360	Austin Reed	365	415	..	12.0	3.0	22.4
237	140	Wickes	183	188	..	5.1	2.7	10.7
220	110	Wolding Office	105	115	..	5.6	5.1	8.1

ELECTRICALS

1989 High	Low	Company	Bid	Offer	Ch'ge	Gross div p	Yld %	P/E
448	266	AB Elect	268	280	..	22.3	8.5	7.0
148	85	ABB Next	129	130	●-1	5.0	3.9	17.6
205	120	Admiral Comp	198	208	-2	3.6	1.9	21.7
367½	254	Dolta	330	332	-5	15.6	4.6	10.0

FINANCE, LAND

1989 High	Low	Company	Bid	Offer	Ch'ge	Gross div p	Yld %	P/E
91	68	AC Hldgs	58	63	●-2	2.7	4.4	32.3
330	246	Abingworth	315	322	+2	2.0	0.6	..
238	116	Templeton Glbth	228	233	-2	4.3	1.9	..

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

1989 High	Low	Company	Bid	Offer	Ch'ge	Gross div p	Yld %	P/E
29½	14½	American Express	19¼	..	..	..	..	..
131	65	Britannia Arrow	117	120	..	7.3	6.1	14.4
343	218	Electra	287	292	..	7.3	2.4	35.8
148	88	Tyndall Hldgs	85	88	+1	7.3	8.4	20.7

FOODS

1989 High	Low	Company	Bid	Offer	Ch'ge	Gross div p	Yld %	P/E
438	303	AB Food (aa)	408	412	-1	13.1	3.2	12.1
212	104	ASDA Group (aa)	115	118	+4	6.4	5.5	8.1
424	285	Utd Biscuits (aa)	350	352	●+1	17.2	4.9	13.1
225	173	Watson & Philip	182	187	+1	13.5	7.3	10.9

HOTELS, CATERERS

1989 High	Low	Company	Bid	Offer	Ch'ge	Gross div p	Yld %	P/E
57	32	City Centre Rest	32	34	+½	1.5	4.5	11.3
308	223	Friendly Hotels	285	295	●+1	3.9	1.3	12.9
352	213	Ladbroke (aa)	327	332	●+2	11.8	3.6	17.1
890	740	Savoy Hotels 'A'	855	880	..	7.3	0.8	30.0
121	91	Stakis	91	93	-1	3.1	3.4	10.0
380	242	Trusthse Ft (aa)	298	300	-½	12.2	4.1	17.0

MOTORS, AIRCRAFT

1989 High	Low	Company	Bid	Offer	Ch'ge	Gross div p	Yld %	P/E
134½	104	Appleyard	110	115	..	4.9	4.3	5.2
865	476	Western Motor	570	585	..	19.3	3.3	7.9
133	120	Westland	131	134	+1	4.7	3.5	12.4

SHIPPING

1989 High	Low	Company	Bid	Offer	Ch'ge	Gross div p	Yld %	P/E
688	444	Assoc Br Ports	630	638	..	14.7	2.3	18.8
402	319	Caledonia	355	365	● ..	14.0	3.9	18.4
305	215	Turnbull Scott	240	250	..	11.1	4.5	12.6

SHOES, LEATHER

1989 High	Low	Company	Bid	Offer	Ch'ge	Gross div p	Yld %	P/E
94	58	Headlam	72	79	..	2.9f	3.8	11.3
216	113	Lambert Howarth	155	160	..	12.7	8.0	..
310	250	Style	290	310	..	9.3	3.0	69.4

TOBACCOS

1989 High	Low	Company	Bid	Offer	Ch'ge	Gross div p	Yld %	P/E
936	447	BAT (aa)	820	830	●-1	40.0	4.9	10.8
150	120	PJ Carroll	145	155	..	..	..	..
693	424	Rothmans 'B' (aa)	660	670	●+5	16.4	2.5	12.1

WATER

1989 High	Low	Company	Bid	Offer	Ch'ge	Gross div p	Yld %	P/E
186	100	Anglian Water	154	156	+½	20.4	13.2	3.6
£1450	£1000	Package Unit	£1420	..	-£13	..	..	..

● Ex dividend a Ex all b Forecast dividend e Interim payment passed f Price at suspension g Dividend and yield exclude a special payment k Pre-merger figures n Forecast earnings o Ex other r Ex rights s Ex scrip or share split t Tax-free .. No significant data.

Investment Trusts appear on Page 18

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

THE POUND

US dollar
1.6240 (+0.0105)

W German mark
2.7705 (–0.0096)

Exchange index
86.9 (same)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1868.2 (+9.4)

FT-SE 100
2362.0 (+9.0)

USM (Datastream)
151.56 (+0.15)

Market report, page 17

Water price rises 6p

Water shares rose by an average of about 6p on the week as the start of selling by small investors who had received their interim share certificates failed to halt the advance triggered by French stake-building.

The weighted 1,000 share package dropped £13 to £1,470 yesterday, equivalent to an average fall of about 1p per share.

● The European Investment Bank is to lend £294 million to five of the 10 water companies. Severn Trent is borrowing £100 million, Thames £75 million, Wessex £63 million, Yorkshire £41 million and Anglian £15 million.

Loss at Hibs

Edinburgh Hibernian, the Third Market listed football club, incurred a £1.6 million loss in the year to end-September. There is no dividend. The club lost £788,000 and had to pay out a further £837,000 on transfer fees.

STOCK MARKETS

New York:
Dow Jones ..... 2698.38 (+7.25)*
Tokyo:
Nikkei Average 38040.37 (–175.11)
Hong Kong:
Hang Seng ..... 2921.02 (+53.33)
Amsterdam:
CBS Tendency ..... 182.6 (+0.7)
Sydney: AO ..... 1645.5 (+5.9)
Frankfurt: DAX ... 1696.38 (+19.91)
Brussels:
General ..... 6441.39 (+41.07)
Paris: CAC ..... 548.5 (+1.1)
Zurich: SKA Gen ..... 911.2 (–1.5)
London:
FT-A All-Share ... 1177.11 (+3.71)
FT-"500" ..... 1280.27 (+3.43)
FT. Gold Mines ..... 312.9 (–2.1)
FT. Fixed Interest ..... 92.67 (same)
FT. Govt Secs ..... 84.49 (same)

Closing prices Page 14
Recent issues Page 17

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISES:
Hillsdown ..... 275p (+8p)
Smithkline Beecham ..... 594½p (+6p)
Sterling Inds ..... 125p (+14p)
Wolstenholme Rink ..... 332½p (+10p)
Rechem ..... 623½p (+36p)
Higgs & Hill ..... 433p (+9p)
Rugby Group ..... 169½p (+7p)
Derwent Holdings ..... 715p (+10p)
Cable & Wireless ... 558½p (+11p)
Electrocomponents ..... 217½p (+12p)
Macro 4 ..... 282½p (+15p)
Barr Wallace 'A' ..... 305p (+10p)
Lucas ..... 632½p (+14p)
DAKS Simpson 'A' .. 487½p (+15p)
Forminster ..... 345p (+15p)
Davies & Newman ..... 750p (+25p)
Chesterfield ..... 780p (+20p)
Connells ..... 200p (+35p)
Gresham House ..... 355p (+10p)

FALLS:
Priest Marians ..... 340p (–8p)
Closing prices
Bargains 24396
SEAQ Volume 388.7m

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 15%
3-month interbank 15⅛-15%
3-month eligible bills: 14¹⁷/₃₂-14⅜%
US: Prime Rate 10½%
Federal Funds 8¹⅛%*
3-month Treasury Bills 7.59-7.58%*
30-year bonds 102²⁷/₃₂-102²⁸/₃₂*

CURRENCIES

London:	New York:
£: $1.6240	£: $1.6215*
£: DM2.7705	$: DM1.7075*
£: SwFr2.5123	$: SwFr1.5491*
£: FFr9.4842	$: FFr5.8395*
£: Yen232.23	$: Yen142.90*
£: Index:88.9	$: Index:87.4
ECU £0.732331	SDR £0.817980
£: ECU1.365502	£: SDR1.222523

GOLD

London Fixing:
AM $413.20 pm-$n/a
close $413.00-413.50 (£255.25-255.75)
New York:
Comex $413.10-413.60*

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Feb) .... $19.75 bbl ($19.45)
* Denotes latest trading price

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.10	1.97
Austria Sch	20.35	19.15
Belgium Fr	61.20	57.30
Canada $	1.955	1.845
Denmark Kr	11.22	10.52
Finland Mkk	6.90	6.50
France Fr	9.88	9.28
Germany Dm	2.89	2.72
Greece Dr	277.25	252.25
Hong Kong $	13.22	12.32
Ireland Pt	1.164	1.034
Italy Lire	2170	2040
Japan Yen	246	230
Netherlands Gld	3.25	3.07
Norway Kr	11.20	10.54
Portugal Esc	256	240
South Africa Rd	4.20	3.90
Spain Pta	185.50	174.50
Sweden Kr	10.52	9.92
Switzerland Fr	2.62	2.45
Turkey Lira	4230	3830
USA $	1.70	1.60
Yugoslavia Dnr	refer	150000

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.

Retail Price Index: 118.5 (November)

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

Blue Circle wins Myson with £198m bid

By Jeremy Andrews

Blue Circle has won control of Myson, the manufacturer of central heating boilers, after its £198 million agreed bid was cleared by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Yesterday it renewed its 240p cash offer, originally made in August, and immediately took its stake to more than 50 per cent by buying shares in the market.

The bid was referred to the MMC with an earlier £180 million offer from Yale and Valor, the gas fire and door lock manufacturer. Both bids were cleared on Thursday, though on different grounds. The MMC found that a merger with Blue Circle would cut the number of British gas boiler manufacturers from five to four. The merged group would have a significantly larger share of the market than the rest, with a total of 30 per cent, rising to 42 per cent in the case of wall-hung boilers.

However, the MMC noted there was much competition between different types of gas boilers and that manufacturers from other European Community countries had a strong position in the British market for combination boilers, for which demand was rising. Myson, which makes a range of domestic and commercial heating equipment at 15 plants, has been turned round by Mr Ray Wheeler and Mr John Salkeld, two former GEC executives. They led an institutionally backed buy-in at the equivalent of 17p a share in 1981. Five years later, Myson bought Thorn EMI's heating division for £42 million.

For Blue Circle, the deal will be the second step in reducing its dependence on cement by diversifying into domestic appliances after the £330 million purchase of Birmid Qualcast 14 months ago.

The move appears to involve some dilution as the 240p terms reflect an exit p/e ratio of 13 on its 1988 profits of £22.6 million and earnings per share of 18.4p. Blue Circle's shares, unchanged at 243p, stand at less than nine times earnings of 28p, as expected by analysts this year.

In the six months to June, Myson's profits rose by only 1 per cent to £8.71 million and turnover was just 2 per cent ahead at £80.7 million.

Mr Wheeler, the chairman, said the results reflected the impact of a more difficult home products market, which was down by between 5 and 6 per cent on the year. Blue Circle's offer is also pitched at a substantial premium to Myson's net assets of £44.5 million 12 months ago.

Yale and Valor had an 8.3 per cent stake in Myson, which it bought in the market at 221p at the time of its offer in July. However, Yale decided not to make a counter-offer and Mr Tony Marson, its finance director, said: "We wouldn't wish to do a deal that is earnings-dilutive." None the less, the modest gain on the disposal of its stake in Myson would cover the costs of its bid.

Mr Marson did not wish to comment on whether he had any other acquisitions in prospect. He said: "The most I've got in sight at the moment is a short break between now and the start of the next decade."

The MMC found that a merger between Myson and Valor would produce a company with 35 per cent of the £160 million British market for gas fires, though no competitor had more than 15 per cent.

However, it argued that it was in the interest of British Gas, which sold three quarters of all traditional gas fires through its showrooms, to purchase them on favourable terms.

Beefeater Gin the prize for Allied-Lyons in fierce auction

Whitbread spirits sale raises £545m

By John Bell, City Editor

Allied-Lyons has agreed to pay £545 million for Whitbread's spirits division, whose brands include Beefeater and Plymouth gin, Long John scotch whisky and Denaka vodka.

Allied emerged victorious from a fierce auction for control of the division. Rival bidders are believed to have included Suntory, the Japanese whisky manufacturer, Pernod Ricard, the French concern, and Seagram of Canada.

Analysts said that the price paid for the Whitbread operations was slightly higher than expected. Allied-Lyons confirmed that the deal would produce "minimal" earnings dilution for the year ending March 1991. The group says it is confident that there will be a progressively beneficial effect afterwards.

Barclays de Zoete Wedd, the securities house, has revised its pre-tax profit forecasts for the year to March 1991 from £632 million to £622 million and shaved earnings projections from 53.3p per share to 52.4p.

Mr Richard Martin, chief executive of Allied-Lyons, said: "This is an exciting acquisition which meets our strategy of developing further as a major international branded business. Together, Hiram Walker-Allied Vintners and the Whitbread spirits business will enjoy greatly enhanced growth prospects."

In marketing terms, the acquisition of Beefeater gin, a leading white spirit brand, plugs a gap in Allied's brand portfolio.

Beefeater has a strong market position in the US, Canada, Spain, and in the duty free trade world-wide. The other two premium brands being acquired, Long John and the single malt scotch Laphroaig, fit well with the existing range.

As a result of the purchase, Allied's share of the British whisky market rises from just over 10 per cent to about 11½ per cent. Clearance from the Office of Fair Trading is thought to be a formality.

Whitbread put its spirits business on the market last October following a strategic view of operations.

The group decided that it had to become larger in wines and spirits – a trade increasingly international and dominated by such companies as Guinness, GrandMet, Allied-Lyons and Seagram – or sell and concentrate resources elsewhere.

The sale proceeds will be used to expand Whitbread's core activities in restaurants and hotels, public houses and brewing and beer marketing. The group borrowings of £29 million will be eliminated.

Mr Peter Jarvis, Whitbread's managing director, said that the sale would strengthen the balance sheet and allow investment in existing operations and by acquisition.

Whitbread's spirits division comprises two main operations, James Burrough and the Buckingham Wile Company. Burrough distils and markets gin, whisky and vodka.

Buckingham Wile markets a portfolio of brands in the United States. Apart from the Burrough brands, these include Cutty Sark, Benedictine, Bollinger champagne, Dry Sack sherry and Antorini italian wines.

Last year, the Whitbread spirits division made profits of £23.4 million but is expected to produce about £30 million in the current 12 months. Net assets are about £140 million.

Allied's gearing will rise to 80 per cent after the deal, assuming the successful acquisition of Dunkin' Donuts, the US group.

Gearing will fall sharply after the proposed sales of Embassy Hotels, Normand and various property sales. Allied shares fell 2p to 487p while Whitbread A also shed 2p to 387p.

Subject to OFT approval, completion of the acquisition is expected by the end of January. A circular giving full details to shareholders will be dispatched after Christmas.

ALISTAIR GRANT

Last orders: Peter Jarvis yesterday with the main Whitbread brands that are being sold

EC lifts first life insurance barrier

From Peter Guilford
Brussels

European Community ministers have removed the first barrier to an open European life insurance market. British insurance companies will technically be allowed to sell life policies to clients anywhere in the Community in two years' time, a freedom now denied them.

This follows an agreement between EC internal market ministers late on Thursday during a marathon meeting in Brussels. The move paves the way for more radical liberalization measures in this highly protected sector next year.

Initially the agreement will have only a mild inpact when it comes into force, as insurance brokers, through whom most policies sold to foreign clients would effectively have to pass, are excluded from the directive until the end of 1994.

Its symbolic impact could lead next year to measures opening up life insurance to competition throughout Europe. "It is only a first step," said Mr John Redwood, under-secretary for corporate affairs, "but it begins the process of gradual erosion."

Under the directive, which needs clearance from the European Parliament "passive" insurance selling is permitted. A British company, for example, could not actively tout its policies among potential clients in Germany, but it will be free to advertize in German newspapers.

British Steel surprise at MMC inquiry into deal

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

British Steel's £330 million acquisition of C Walker & Sons, Britain's largest steel stockholder, is to be investigated by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

British Steel's purchase of Walker, its biggest customer, is its first big acquisition since privatization. It gives British Steel about 35 per cent of the British stockholding market.

The referral by Mr Nicholas Ridley, the Trade Secretary, was made on the recommendation of Sir Gordon Borrie, the Director General of Fair Trading, and came as a surprise to British Steel. When the sale was announced in October, Sir Robert Scholey, the British Steel chairman, said he did not expect problems on competition grounds.

The European Commission is still considering whether to give the acquisition clearance. Agreement is also needed from the Republic of Ireland because of Walker's substantial interests there.

The deal is also caught by the section of the Fair Trading Act which prohibits parties in a merger from acquiring each other's shares while the investigation is being carried out.

Matters are complicated by the involvement of both the European Commission and the Government in the clearance under the Treaty of Paris.

The Treaty, drawn up by the European coal and steel community, covers about 90 per cent of the products of British Steel and Walker – hence the need for European Commission clearance.

The Treaty covers primary steel products such as ingots but some finished steels fall under national regulation. It is these which will be the focus of the MMC investigation.

The MMC will consider the entire implications of the merger. With British Steel the biggest steel producer in Britain, the Office of Fair Trading appears to be concerned about horizontal and vertical integration factors.

If the European Commission gives a clearance before the MMC reports, the Government will give an "appropriate consent," said the Department of Trade and Industry.

The merger could then go ahead, but if the MMC subsequently calls for a specific remedy, British Steel could possibly face a divestment or the giving of undertakings to achieve the remedy.

Banks agree to debt restructuring for Magnet

By Gillian Bowditch

The board of Magnet and the nine banks involved in the troubled £629 million management buyout signed a three-year debt restructuring agreement yesterday to allow the kitchen retailer to continue trading. There will be no injection of new capital.

The banks will not vary the interest rates or terms for three years and the interest on the £160 million subordinated debt will be deferred for the same period.

The rights attached to Magnet's convertible shares held by the public are not affected by the restructuring, but the rights attached to management shares are severely curtailed. The management's share of the equity on conversion will fall. Magnet had been hoping to announce details before Christmas, but they will be delayed until Wednesday due to legal hitches.

Mr John Foulkes, the group's managing director, is expected to become executive chairman after the resignation, expected on Wednesday, of Mr Tom Duxbury, the current chairman. Mr Duxbury's resignation will take effect from February after Magnet's extraordinary general meeting.

Sources close to the group said the resignation terms had been negotiated and it is unlikely that Mr Duxbury receive compensation although he is likely to be freed from various obligations.

Thomson may take only half Ferranti

Thomson-CSF, the French electronics and defence group, met in Paris yesterday to consider the company's plans for Ferranti International, its ailing British counterpart (Angela Mackay writes).

Thomson-CSF, which is the only remaining serious bidder for the company, decided at the meeting to continue negotiations for either a takeover or a 50-50 investment in Ferranti.

Thomson is not expected to announce its plans until early next month.

Ferranti has in place a £187 million stand-by rights issue which will be put into effect on February 5 if an offer is not declared unconditional.

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Heavy losses may mean National Telecom goes for half its listing price

Alcatel bids to rescue systems group

By Martin Waller

National Telecommunications, the telephone systems group whose tenure on the stock market has been a near-disaster, has found a rescuer.

The bidder is the Alcatel Group of France, which is prepared to bid half National Telecom's 120p price of its listing in July last year. Alcatel claims to be the world's biggest communications systems and equipment provider with annual sales of more than £8 billion. It is 61.5 per cent owned by CGE, the French electrical engineering group.

None of the National Telecom directors were available for comment as news of the offer broke, accompanied by another set of appalling figures.

The company slipped into a loss of £1.57 million before tax for the year to end-September, against profits of £1.36 million last time. There is no interim dividend – last time the group paid 0.75p. National Telecom's preliminary results for 1988-89 saw it miss its own profit forecast – made at the time of an earlier profit warning – by £500,000. Since then it has warned of interim losses of at least £1 million.

Mr John McLaren, a director at Morgan Grenfell, the company's merchant bank, said all the existing management, led by the chairman and chief executive, Mr Peter Chamberlain, would be staying with the company as it transferred into new ownership.

Alcatel's 60p cash offer, which values National Telecommunications at £20.4 million, saw the share price advance 9p to 59p. But the price was just short of 100p in September after the group said it was in talks with "suitable industrial partners" which could possibly lead to a takeover.

There had subsquently been talk about a take-out price as high as 130p. Mr McLaren said Alcatel had been one of the parties involved then, but the talks had broken down.

"It wasn't in simple terms the same bid talks," he said of the subsequent takeover. "We had one or two people who had made expressions of interest and we had approached other people ourselves.

"At that time, had something come forward it would have been expected to be around that price level. No firm proposal was received. The company's performance in the first six months was very disappointing – this isn't a static situation.

"When it became clear what the interim figures were, the company was in a poorer position. We did not turn down a firm proposal in September."

Alcatel has the blessing of shareholders speaking for 26.5 per cent of the share capital.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Consumer slump hits Border at half time

Falling consumer spending sent pre-tax profits at Border TV, the Cumbrian ITV contractor, sharply lower to £184,000, from £485,000, in the six months to end-October. The interim dividend, however, is stepped up from 0.8p to 0.88p.

The profits were struck after exceptional costs relating to the group's voluntary redundancy scheme, which increased from £65,000 to £164,000. But the group had the benefit of a £498,000 extraordinary credit from the sale of its share of Independent Television Publications, the *TV Times* publisher, which boosted attributable profits to £613,000, from £301,000. Border blamed a lack of growth in advertising spending because of a fall in consumer spending. The shares fell 3p to 49p.

Earnings fall at Danbury

Danbury Group, the property developer, suffered a fall in pre-tax profits to £470,000 in the six months to end-September, against £1.78 million in the year to end-March. Earnings per share fall to 4.08p for the period (18.74p for the previous year). Turnover was £3.46 million for the half year (£4.44 million last year). A single annual dividend is intended next August.

Forminster advances

Forminster, the women's clothing maker, lifted pre-tax profits 14.4 per cent to £896,000 in the six months to end-October, on turnover up 8.2 per cent to £9.25 million. Earnings per share rise 22.5 per cent to 17.22p. The interim dividend lifts to 3.025p (2.75p). The shares gained 15p to 345p. Mr Henry Bronstein, the managing director, has cut his holding to 15.88 per cent.

Vista buys nightclub

Victoria's, the Glasgow nightclub, has been bought in a deal worth £2.25 million by Vista Entertainments, the Third Market leisure company and new owner of Manchester Theatres and School Dinners, the London restaurant.

Victoria's, in Sauchiehall Street, close to the city's new concert hall, opened in August. The 20,000 sq ft leisure complex, incorporating a cabaret club, two restaurants, nightclub, discoteque and piano bar, has been run for the past four months by Mr James Mortimer, the founder, who converted the site from auction rooms.

Go ahead for onshore oil

Development of Britain's two new onshore oil fields has been approved by Mr Peter Morrison, the Energy Minister. About £7.9 million will be spent by Cairn Energy at Palmers Wood, Oxted, Surrey, and £350,000 has been earmarked by Ultramar at Stockbridge, near Winchester. They have combined recoverable reserves of 3.7 million barrels.

New directors at Polly Peck

Polly Peck, the international trading group run by Mr Asil Nadir, has appointed two new directors — Mr Brian Haycox, the chief executive of the recently-acquired Del Monte Tropical Fruit Co, and Mr Peter Compson, who joined Polly Peck as director of human resources this year. Mr John Clayton has been appointed group company secretary.

Quiligotti tops £1.2m

Quiligotti, the terrazzo floor tile manufacturer which joined the Unlisted Securities Market in March, lifted pre-tax profits by 12 per cent to £1.21 million in the six months to end-September, on turnover up 19 per cent to £10.6 million.

Earnings per share edge ahead from 2.71p to 2.72p, while the interim dividend is improved by 15 per cent to 0.76p. The company, which commands 80 per cent of the British terrazzo market, said trading is satisfactory and the outlook looks promising. Mr John Riordan, the chairman, said industrial flooring and natural stone products had performed well.

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Beecham in £66m N America sell-off

By Melinda Wittstock

SmithKline Beecham, the Anglo-American Lucozade-to-pharmaceuticals group still looking for a buyer for its cosmetics division, is selling its US and Canadian household products business for $106 million (£66 million) cash.

The disposal of the Calgon dishwashing liquid, bath additives and Cling Free fabric softener business to the West German Joh A Benckiser, which markets the Calgon brands throughout Europe, comes just two days after SKB announced the sale of its worldwide UHU adhesives business to a West German consortium for £97.5 million.

Beecham, which acquired most of the Calgon brands from Merck in 1977, has been selling its consumer products operations following its merger in July with America's SmithKline Beckman.

The merged company's strategy is to concentrate on developing its international health care and pharmaceuticals business.

Benckiser, whose Calgon water softener is already a market leader on the continent, now has the right to sell Calgon products in North America and other countries. Merck retains the rights to the Calgon industrial detergents.

The Calgon products business, which includes Calgonite dishwasher detergent and Delicare detergent for delicate fabrics, reported sales of $76.7 million (£48 million) in the year to end-March, though SKB will not reveal its contribution to group profits.

SKB will use the proceeds to reduce group borrowings.

AC to pay £19m for THF hotels

By Gillian Bowditch

AC Holdings, the former car company which diversified into financial services, yesterday completed its metamorphosis into an hotel group with the acquisition of seven hotels from Trusthouse Forte for £19.2 million in cash.

The company is changing its name to Principal Hotels Group and is raising £10.2 million via an institutional placing through Laing & Cruickshank, the broker, of 17 million new shares at 60p. The other £9 million will be raised from existing bank borrowings.

The acquisition gives AC Holdings 12 British and four European hotels with 1,500 rooms in Britain. The group intends to build up its hotel business and wants to be among the top five British hotel companies with a portfolio of 5,000 hotel rooms by 1995.

The financial services, fund management and stockbroking businesses are likely to be sold to management early next year in a deal worth about £3.5 million.

Mr Michael Purtill, managing director of Principal Hotels says in the longer term the group will be looking for more European and British hotels in provincial towns. It has no plans to buy London hotels. The shares fell 2p to 61p.

Air Canada sells 5.4% of GPA Group for $212m

By Graham Searjeant, Financial Editor

Air Canada has sold 5.4 per cent of the fully-diluted share capital of GPA Group, the world's largest aircraft leasing company, for $212 million (£131 million).

The deal values the unquoted group, which is based in Ireland but produces its accounts in US dollars, at $3.9 billion.

The shares were placed by GPA (formerly Guinness Peat Aviation) among financial institutions in Canada, Ireland, Japan and the United States.

The sale, predicted two weeks ago, reduces Air Canada's stake from 14.7 per cent to 9.3 per cent on a fully-diluted basis, but Air Canada said it plans further sales next year to reduce its stake to a minimum of 7.5 per cent which it will retain.

The airline will use the proceeds to reduce debts and finance re-equipment.

GPA, which is headed by Mr Tony Ryan, made after-tax profits of $152 million in the year to the end of March and $115 million in the six months to the end of September.

Mr Ryan, who still owns more than 5 per cent of the group, founded it in 1975, starting with spare aircraft from Aer Lingus, his then employer.

The Irish airline remains a leading shareholder, but Guinness Peat, the other big initial backer, sold its stake last year.

GPA, which is based in a tax-free zone at Shannon, Co Clare, has more than 200 aircraft leased to more than 60 airlines, but is now growing very rapidly.

In April it placed a composite order for 308 passenger aircraft valued at $17 billion from Boeing, Airbus Industrie and McDonnell Douglas.

It has been profiting from a shortage of new generation aircraft as manufacturers struggle to keep up with stretching order books and has also dabbled in short-term leasing to fill the gaps.

GPA recently said that the weakening of the United States market due to the financial difficulties of airlines had been more than compensated by strong growth in the Far East.

In 1988, GPA issued new shares at $285 each and made a further $150 million issue in May this year at $425 per share. The Air Canada stock was placed at $650 per share.

The possibility of a public listing has long been mooted, partly to offer the many leading financial institutions on GPA's share register a more liquid market. But so far GPA has always concluded the time was not yet right because the need to go public was less than the benefits of remaining private.

Rex Williams Leisure in red after disposal costs

By Philip Pangalos

Rex Williams Leisure, the USM leisure group, made a pre-tax loss of £1.29 million in the 18 months to end-May, compared with a £225,000 profit last time.

The company is headed by Mr Frank Warren, the boxing and snooker promoter now recovering from being shot three weeks ago.

There is an extraordinary charge of £1.34 million comprising the losses on the disposal of Dalton Watson, the classic car book publisher; Polyfast, the television production company; and other abortive acquisition costs. There is an exceptional charge of £570,000 relating to fixed asset write-downs for the gaming division and launch costs of 3001 Space Adventure, the high-technology amusement centre.

The loss per share stands at 7.9p, against earnings of 1p last time. There is no dividend after 0.2p before. Group turnover advanced from £1.68 million to £4.13 million.

Mr John Botros, the acting chairman, said the 18-month period had been difficult. Problems had arisen because management resources were not developed as quickly as required by acquisition policy, and "a number of the acquisitions have proved most unsuccessful."

Mr Botros said the company would significantly improve the company's financial position and allow it to concentrate on its core activities are under negotiation.

Recovering: Frank Warren, chairman of Rex Williams Leisure felt it necessary to take steps to eliminate problems and arrest losses, and to this end Dalton Weston was disposed of and the company sold its control of Polyfast.

Further disposals which Mr Botros said the company is currently trading at a more satisfactory level. The shares held at 14p.

Policy dispute forces Electra chief out after 10 months

By Jeremy Andrews

Mr Robert Drummond has resigned from Electra Investment Trust, which specializes in management buyouts and unquoted investments, after a policy disagreement.

Mr Drummond, aged 44, spent only 10 months with Electra, which he joined after running County NatWest's venture capital arm.

Around 70 per cent of Electra's portfolio is invested in unlisted companies. In August, it announced it was setting up a £550 million management buyout fund backed by CCF, the French bank, General Electric's pension fund, the Industrial Bank of Japan, the Singapore Government and Globe Investment Trust.

Mr Drummond was then allotted 8 per cent of the shares in the management company, Electra Kingsway, issued to directors.

Mr David Osborne, a director of Electra, said that his resignation would not result in a change of policy. The buy-out fund was likely to be fully subscribed by the New Year.

Electra this week sold its investments in UK Paper to Fletcher Challenge and Corgi to Mattell, while also arranging the buy-out of Air Call.

Electra played no part in the buyouts of MFI and Magnet, which subsequently ran into difficulties, nor did the trust invest in the Isosceles bid for Gateway.

Wilmot reviews Alphameric

By Martin Waller

Wilmot: strategic study

Alphameric, the troubled information systems and keyboard manufacturer, has found a saviour in Mr Robb Wilmot, the former chief executive of ICL, Britain's biggest computer company.

Mr Wilmot runs Octagon Industries, a management consultancy specializing in information technology. His company will conduct a "strategic commercial review" of all aspects of Alphameric's business. Mr Dougal Craig-Wood, the chairman, said he did not expect its conclusions to result in a break-up of the company, although Alphameric is considering entering a joint venture or selling a share in its data broadcast and display division. The review will run until end-January.

For its help, Octagon will receive £30,000 cash and allotted shares representing 3.9 per cent of Alphameric's enlarged share capital, worth £246,000 at 28p a share.

Concerns over European single market

Management sees staff as main worry of 1990s

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

"People problems" head the list of worries which British chief executives have about the 1990s, according to a survey by the Management Consultancies Association.

People availability was cited by 42 per cent of the business chiefs as a key issue, the next most frequent preoccupation being 1992 (31 per cent). More than a fifth also listed customer care, competitiveness, economy problems and information technology as main issues.

The problems of recruiting and keeping the right personnel are creating the most anxiety in retailing and distribution, where 71 per cent of business chiefs said it was a key issue.

Almost as worried by the problem were public sector organizations (69 per cent) and business heads in financial and other service industries (48 per cent).

The prime concern of chief executives is that demand for increasingly skilled and qualified staff will not be satisfied during the coming decade.

This is consistent with research by the Institute of Manpower Studies, which pointed to a likely shortage of "knowledge workers" hindering economic growth during the 1990s. Envisaged solutions include an increase in training, a widening of recruitment, more incentives and other job or technology related improvements.

The single European market is seen as offering both opportunities and threats, with recruitment and personnel retention again being seen as a problem. Increased mobility of labour would threaten countries and industries with lower pay levels and ill-defined career prospects, the association said.

Problems about 1992 concerned 43 per cent of retailers and distributors, 36 per cent in financial and other service industries and a quarter of manufacturers.

In the chemicals and energy sectors, the biggest worries were focused on competitiveness, changing markets and the increasingly global nature of businesses. These sectors were also most concerned about environmental issues.

Economy problems also worried financial and other services (32 per cent) and manufacturing (25 per cent). The cost of money most concerned retailers and distributors (29 per cent), while manufacturers (17 per cent) were most worried about profitability and growth.

Royal Bank sells 75% of Mays

By Neil Bennett

Royal Bank of Scotland has sold three-quarters of AT Mays, its travel agency business, for £15 million, after owning the company for only two years.

The bank is selling a 76 per cent stake in the business to the Carlson Travel Group of the United States.

It will also receive a £2.3 million final dividend from Mays, and keep its non-travel assets, including a garage and property which are valued at £1.1 million.

In total the deal values Mays at £23.4 million, compared with the £21.6 million Royal Bank of Scotland paid for it in November 1987.

Mays made profits of £2.25 million in the year to September, at a time when many of its competitors were making losses.

Royal Bank of Scotland had originally hoped to use the travel agency network to sell finance and insurance products.

However, this intention was thwarted by the Financial Services Act.

"Our businesses have to be able to contribute to each other," said Mr George Mathewson, strategic planning director.

"We have worked with the business but we feel it does not provide the synergy we require."

Losses are confirmed at Priest Marians

Priest Marians, the property group, has confirmed it will make a large loss in the year to September and is having trouble selling property to cut debts.

Mr Daniel Auerbach, the chairman, said at the annual meeting that the property sales were worse than it had planned when it revealed its problems in August. He said the company is trying to expedite sales, and the value of many is still high.

Priest hit problems after its acquisition of the Local London Group in April, when it found the company's debts and tax liabilities were larger than it had thought.

Bid speculation at Priest grew last month when JMB Realty built a 25 per cent stake in the company. But yesterday the shares slid 9p to 340p.

Evered buys US aggregate firms

Evered is buying several ready-mix concrete and aggregate businesses in North Carolina for £13.5 million.

The businesses, Concrete Service Co, Aggregate Products Co, Commercial Products and one further ready-mix concrete business, are being bought from DR Allen.

German deal at Newman Tonks

Newman Tonks is taking a new partner in West Germany. Lemeta, a new joint venture company, has been established in which Gretsch-Unitas, a West German manufacturer of mechanical window operating systems and architectural ironmongery, will have a 30.77 per cent stake.

Newman's Wehag Leichmetall subsidiary, a manufacturer of metal door and window fittings, based in Heiligenhaus, will be sold to Lemeta for DM2.5 million (£900,000).

Chesterfield in £42m sale

Chesterfield Properties has exchanged contracts for the sale of Whitebrook Park, Maidenhead, for £42 million.

Completion will take place on January 22, and the full consideration will be paid then in cash. Shares in Chesterfield Properties rose 5p to 765p.

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

	Calls Sedco Jan	Apr	Jul	Puts Jan	Apr	Jul
Allid Lyon... (*457)	420	75	92	17	1	4½
	460	38	60	57	4½	12
	500	13	35	45	22	30
ASDA (*118)	110	13	19	23	3½	8
	120	6½	14	16	8	12
Bass... (*1037)	1000	65	105	133	10	23
	1050	32	73	169	30	42
	1100	12	47	75	67	75
Boots... (*285)	280	15	27	32	6½	10
	290	5	18	22	20	20
	300	2½	9	-	37	37
Brit Air... (*221)	180	44	51	54	1	3
	200	24½	35	37	17½	8
	220	9	21	24	5	15
Brit Com... (*97)	80	22	27	30	2	4
	90	13	21	24	5	9
	100	7	15	20	9	15
BP... (*327)	300	31	39	45	1½	6
	330	7	19	24	8	15
	360	1	7	-	35	35
Brit Steel... (*132)	120	14	20	22	2	2½
	135	3½	8	-	8½	8½
	145	1	4½	-	14	14
C & W... (*569)	480	102	120	132	1½	6
	500	65	90	102	3	13
	550	25	57	72	15	27
Cons Gold... (*1480)	1450	20	-	-	5	-
	1500	4	-	-	45	-
Cons Unions... (*822)	420	108	116	121	2	3
	460	70	78	88	3	10
	500	35	45	59	10	22
Courtauld... (*378)	330	52	65	72	2	5
	360	27	42	50	6	14
	390	8	25	32	20	26
GKN... (*429)	390	46	57	66	3	13
	420	24	37	55	8	23
	460	7	20	32	37	47
Grand Met... (*612)	550	72	85	103	2½	11
	600	30	50	70	11	27
	650	8	27	47	42	55
ICI (*1099)	1050	72	97	120	11	35
	1100	36	64	90	27	57
	1150	17	40	67	60	85
Jaguar (*647)	600	52	62	66	1	1
	650	1	1	3	-	3
	700	½	½	-	-	-
KingfisherA (*295)	280	24	36	41	5	8
	300	10	25	29	12	17
	330	2½	14	18	37	37
Ladbroke... (*330)	300	34	47	53	3	8
	325	14	-	-	8	-
Land Sec... (*524)	480	72	90	97	1½	3
	500	35	57	67	5	11
	550	8	29	37	29	35
M & S... (*197)	180	22	29	32	2½	4
	200	6	14	18	9	17
	220	1½	6	-	25	25
STC... (*238)	240	12	21	25	15	19
	260	3½	10	18	32	32
	280	1½	6	11	47	48
Sainsbury... (*260)	240	22	36	41	3	4
	260	10	22	26	8	11
	280	3	11	15	21	21
Shell... (*477)	420	66	73	86	1	6
	460	30	43	57	6	16
	500	5	22	33	25	37
Smith Newph... (*595)	541	63	-	-	3	-
	600	18	42	58	20	25
	650	3	21	35	57	57
Stanshaw... (*108)	100	10	16	19	4	7
	110	5	11	14	9	12
	120	2½	6	10	18	18
Trafalgar... (*344)	317	37	-	-	2½	-
	347	16	-	-	14	-
	377	4	-	-	37	-
Ultramar... (*365)	300	70	75	87	1	5
	330	42	52	63	3	10
	360	18	32	43	12	24
Unilever... (*701)	6500	1½	61½	101	210½	16
	7000	2½	48	66½	14½	28
	750	52½	44½	-	51	57
Utd Biscu... (*351)	330	28	37	45	3½	6
	360	8	18	28	12	20
	390	3	9	17	41	45

	Calls Sedco Feb	May	Aug	Puts Feb	May	Aug
LASMO... (*377)	500	92	110	123	3	10
	550	53	73	88	15	23
	600	20	42	60	35	47
P & O... (*804)	550	71½	83½	98½	3½	13½
	600	33½	49½	67½	17	30½
	650	12½	27½	44	49½	62
Pilkington... (*227)	200	34	44	-	2	4
	220	19	30	34	5	9
	240	9	19	22	16	19
Plessey... (*288)	240	-	-	-	½	-
	260	1½	-	-	3½	-
	280	½	½	-	-	-
Prudential... (*229)	180	54	57	59	2	3
	200	35	39	43	3	5
	220	19	23	29	7	11
Racal... (*234)	210	33	41	-	3½	7½
	230	18	28	-	10	14
	250	8½	-	-	20	-
RTZ... (*570)	493	90	-	-	2	-
	542	49	-	-	9	-
	600	17	30	47	37	47
Scot & Newc... (*355)	330	37	52	58	10	16
	360	22	35	43	23	30
	390	11	22	-	43	47
Tesco... (*183)	160	35½	41½	46½	1	2½
	180	20½	28	31½	3	5½
	200	8	14	19	21	25
Abbey Nat... (*174)	140	38	38	39	1	2
	160	18	21	23	3	6
	180	1½	7	11	9	13
Fennell... (*30)	30	4	7	9	4	5
	35	2½	4	6½	7	8½
	40	2	3	4½	11	12
Pelly Pack... (*369)	360	17½	32	38½	4½	11½
	390	17½	34	45½	15	22½
	420	6½	20½	30½	35	41½
Reuters... (*1006)	950	94½	118½	-	17½	29½
	1000	81	87½	-	36½	48½
	1050	36½	62½	-	64½	75½
Amstrad... (*44)	35	12½	15	18	3	4
	40	8	12	14	5	6½
	45	5	10	11	6½	8½
Barclays... (*556)	480	113	118	-	4	5
	500	77	85	95	11	13
	550	37	58	82	33	38
Blue Circ... (*263)	200	52	54	-	2	5
	220	34	37	45	5	11
	250	16	-	18	-	-
Brit Gas... (*227)	180	50	57	-	1	2
	200	31	39	40	4	8
	220	16½	28	27	7	9
Dixons... (*184)	120	21	24	27	4½	6
	130	13	18	22	8	11
	140	8	12	15	13	15
Glaxo... (*772)	750	66	87	112	20	30
	775	49	72	-	32	42
	800	37	57	82	47	62
Hanson... (*221)	950	18	-	-	85	-
	600	125	130	-	12	9
	650	77	95	110	20	22
	700	46	65	80	35	42
	750	33	42	52	65	75
Hillsdown... (*275)	260	28	37	45	7	11
	300	8	15	-	32	35
Ladbro... (*311)	280	38	48	57	10	13
	300	24	35	47	17	20
	330	11	25	32	37	38
Midland... (*368)	360	55	65	-	3	5
	380	65	65	-	7	11
R-Royce... (*178)	160	25	28	35	3	6
	180	13½	16	23½	9	14
	200	5½	9½	15½	23	25
Sears... (*108)	100	14	18½	18	3	6
	110	7	10½	14	9½	12½
	120	3½	6½	-	23½	23½
THF... (*300)	260	35	39	46	5½	12
	300	20	26	37	12	18
	330	9	14	23	32	35
Thorn EMI... (*764)	700	57	125	-	9	14
	750	30	87	82	33	34
	800	27	57	64	47	52
TSB... (*131)	110	23	23	-	1	2
	120	14	18	21	2½	5
	130	9	12	15	7	9
Vaal Reefs... (*1112)	100	18	19	21	7	10
	110	10	14	17	12	14
	120	6	9	13	18	19
Wellcome... (*761)	650	139	152	-	6	13
	700	97	127	155	18	28
	750	64	95	120	37	45

FT-SE INDEX (*2362)
2280 2300 2320 2340 2360 2380

Cells					
Dec	128	78	30½	5½	½
Jan	160	113	80	54	33
Feb	183	144	108	86	65
Mar	208	168	130	109	76
Jun	-	220	-	160	-
Puts					
Dec	2½	4	10½	40	90
Jan	21	33	45	70	108
Feb	31	43	60	88	108
Mar	40	53	72	88	120
Jun	-	67	-	100	-

December 22, 1989 Total: 11121 Calls 9144 Puts 2967 FT-SE: Calls 919 Puts 1776

*Underlying security price.

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

First Dealings December 18 | Last Dealings January 5 | Last Declaration March 22 | For Settlement April 2

Call options were taken out on: 22/12/89 Charles Baynes, Conroy Petroleum, Ferranti, Glynwed, Ketson, Lonrho, Rosebaugh. Puts: Ferranti.

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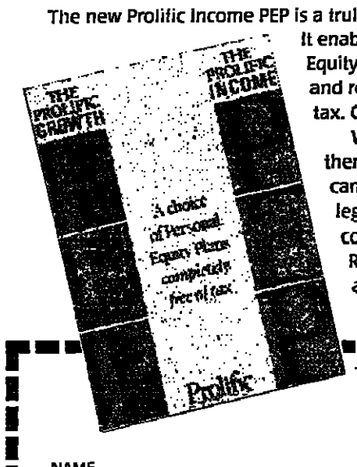

*Source: Micropal Limited: from launch on 2nd September 1974 to 1st October 1989

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WORLD MARKETS

Dow edges ahead on light buying

New York (Reuter) – The Dow Jones industrial average was up by 4 points to 2,695.13 in early trading while, in the general market, rising shares outnumbered falling ones by about five to four.

Light buying as the end of the year approached pushed prices slightly higher, but there was little news in support of this. An unexpected rise of 5.1 per cent in US durable goods orders had little effect.

● **Tokyo** – The Nikkei index ended 175.11 points down at 38,040.37.

● **Hong Kong** – The Hang Seng index rose 53.33 points, or 1.86 per cent, to 2,921.02 and the Hong Kong index added 33.87 to 1,918.70.

● **Frankfurt** – The DAX index vaulted 1.2 per cent, or 19.91 points, to a 1989 record of 1,696.38.

● **Singapore** – The *Straits Times* industrial index hit another post-1987 crash high of 1,484.57, up 12.13 in brisk trading.

● **Sydney** – The All-Ordinaries index rose 5.9 to 1,645.5. It has gained 26.4 this week in quiet trading as investors squared their books before the holiday.

WALL STREET

	Dec 21	Dec 20		Dec 21	Dec 20		Dec 21	Dec 20
AMR Cp	59%	58%	Fedders	13¼	13¼	Pennzoil	88%	87%
ASA	56¼	57%	Fst Chicago	35%	35¼	Pepsico	61%	61%
Aetna Life	55%	56%	Fst Int Bncp	45¼	43%	Pfizer	67	65%
Allied Signal	35%	35%	Fst Penn C	15%	15%	Phelps Dod	58%	58%
Alcoa	72%	72%	FT Wachva	38%	38	Phil Morris	39%	40%
Amax Inc	23¼	22%	Ford Motor	42%	42¼	Philip Ptrl	24%	24%
AMR Hess	51%	49%	Fost Whlr	19%	20¼	Polaroid	41%	41%
Am Brands	67%	68¼	GTE Cp	68	67%	Primerica	26%	27%
Am Cynmd	52%	51%	Gen Cp	11%	11¼	Proct Gamb	67%	67%
Am Ele Pwr	32%	33	Gn Dynam	46%	45%	Pub SE Gr	28%	28%
Amexs	31%	31¼	Gen Electric	62%	62¼	Raytheon	67%	66%
Am Family	17¼	17%	Gen Inst	38%	37¼	Rynlds Metl	52	51%
Am Home	103%	102%	Gen Mills	71¼	71¼	Rockwell Int	21%	21%
Am Int Grp	101½	100%	Gen Motors	42%	41%	Royal Dutch	74%	74%
Am Telph	43%	44%	Gen Pub Ut	45¼	46%	Scecorp	40%	40%
Amoco	54%	54%	Genesco	7%	7%	S Fe Pac Cp	18%	18%
Anheuser B	37%	37	Georgia Pac	47¼	46%	Sara Lee	63%	62%
Arch Dan	22¼	21½	Gillette	46%	46%	Schlumb	48%	48%
Armco Steel	10%	10%	Goodrich	40	39%	Scott Paper	46%	47%
Asarco Inc	29%	29%	Goodyear	42%	43%	Seagram	87%	86%
Ashland Oil	37%	37%	Grace Co	30	29½	Sears Roeb	36%	36%
Atl Richfld	110%	110%	Grt Atl Pac	56%	58%	Sec Pac	40%	40%
Avon Prod	35¼	35%	Greyhnd	30%	30%	Shell Trans	45%	46%
Bk Boston	16½	17%	Gruman	15¼	15%	Sony Cp	58%	58%
Bank NY	39%	37%	Heinz	35%	35%	SW Bell	60%	60%
Bankamer	26	25%	Hercules	39%	39%	Squibb	n.a	n.a
Bkrs Tst NY	41¼	40%	Hewlett Pk	45%	45%	Sun Comp	41½	41%
Baxter	24%	24¼	Hilton	88%	87%	TDK	n.a	n.a
Beth Steel	16%	16%	Hitachi	102¼	102¼	TRW Inc	48%	48%
Boeing	58%	57%	Honda	25%	25¼	Teledyne	340%	342%
Boise Casc	42%	41¼	Honeywell	83	82%	Tenneco	60%	60%
Borden	33¼	33	ITT Cp	58%	58%	Texaco	58%	56%
Brist Myr	55%	55¼	INCO	27%	27%	Texas Inst	35%	35%
BP	63%	64	Ing Rand Wl	46%	46%	Tex Util	37%	36%
Broad Inc	10%	10%	Inland Steel	33	32%	Textron	24%	24
Brunswick	13%	13%	IBM	95%	94%	Timken	27%	26%
Burl Nth	30%	29%	Int Paper	55%	54%	Travelers	36%	36%
CBS	180%	181%	Jhsn & Jhsn	56%	56%	UAL Cp	157%	157
Cms Engy	38%	38%	K Mart	34	34	USG Cp	4%	4%
CPC Int	71%	70%	Kerr McGee	50%	50%	USX Cp	35%	34%
CSX Cp	34%	34%	Kimbrly Clrk	72	71½	Unilever Plc	45%	45%
Camp Soup	56%	53%	Knight Ridr	53%	53%	Un Carbide	22%	23
Can Pacific	21%	21%	Kroger	14%	14%	Un Pac Cp	76%	74%
Caterpiller	57%	58%	LTV Cp	1%	1%	Unisys Cp	14%	14%
Centrl SW	38%	38%	Litton	74%	75½	Unit Brand	16%	16%
Champion	29%	29%	Lockheed	39%	39%	Us West	76%	76
Chase Man	34%	33½	Lone Star	16%	16½	Utd Tech	52	52%
Chem Bank	29%	29%	Man H'nver	33%	33%	Unocal	29%	29%
Chevron	67%	67%	Manville	8%	8%	Warn Lamb	111¼	111%
Chrysler	18½	18%	Mapco	39	38%	Wells Far	72	70%
Citicorp	28%	28	Marriott	33%	33½	Westg El	70%	70%
Clark Eq	35%	35%	Mt Marrieta	41%	41	Weyershr	26%	25%
Coca Cola	74%	76%	Masco Cp	24%	24%	Whirlpool	31%	31%
Colgate	60%	61%	Mcdonalds	33%	32%	Whitman Cp	28	28%
Columb Gas	50%	49%	McDonnell	60%	60%	Whitaker	7%	7%
Cmb'tn Eng	39%	39%	Mead Cp	35%	35%	Woolworth	62	61%
Cmwlth Edi	36%	39%	Merck	75%	75%	Xerox Cp	56%	56%
Cons Edis	28%	28	Minsta Mng	79%	79%	Zenith	12%	12%
Consol Ng	49%	49	Mitsub Bk	22%	22%			
Cont Data	17	16%	Mobil	61%	62%	**CANADIAN PRICES**		
Cornig Inc	40%	41%	Monsanto	115%	115%	Agnco Eag	10%	10%
Crane	22%	22%	Montedison	15%	15%	Alcan Alum	25%	25%
Curtiss W	57%	58	Morgan Jp	41%	40%	Can Pacific	25%	24%
Data Genl	12%	12%	Motorola	57	55%	Cominco	27%	26%
Deere Co	59%	59	NCR	57%	58%	Con Bathrst	n.a	n.a
Delta Airl	67%	65%	NL Indstrs	24%	24%	Hawk S Can	25%	25%
Detroit Edi	25%	25%	Nat Med Ent	37%	37%	Hud Bay M	31	30%
Digital Eq	83%	83%	Nat Semi	6%	6%	Imasco	38%	37%
Disney	114%	111%	Norfolk Sth	38%	38%	Imperial Oil	62%	62%
Dow Chem	69%	67%	NYNEX	88%	88%	Inco	31%	31%
Dresser Ind	44%	44%	Occid Petl	29%	29	Royl Trstco	17%	17%
Dupont	124	124%	Ogden Cp	32	32%	Seagram	101%	100%
Duke Pwr	55%	55%	Olin Cp	58%	58%	Shell Can	42	42
East Kodak	40%	40%	PPG Ind	40	39%	Stelco	20%	20%
Eaton Cp	55%	58	Pac Enterp	49%	49%	Thmsn N'A'	16%	16%
Emerson El	39%	38%	Pac Gas El	21%	21%	Varity Cp	2.74	2.68
Entergy	22%	22%	Pan Am	2%	2%	WCE	20%	20
Exxon	50%	50%	Paramt Cm	50%	50	Weston	42%	42%
Farah Inc	5%	5%	Penney JC	70%	69%			

STOCK MARKET

Midland ahead 7p on talk of Hongkong Bank bid

Midland Bank enjoyed more than its fair share of seasonal cheer, jumping 7p to 385p in an almost deserted market-place, with dealers convinced it could be the new year's first target for a mega-bid.

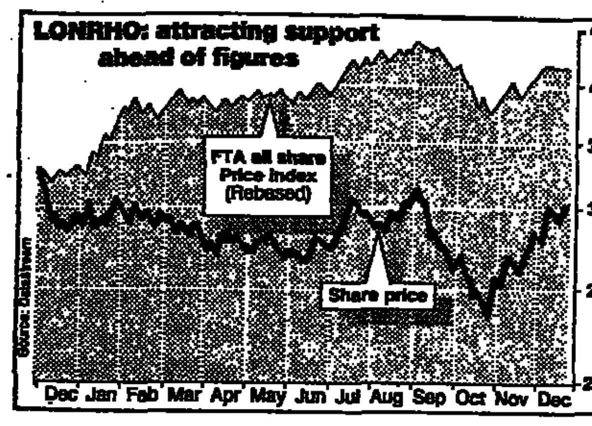
The Hongkong and Shanghai Bank already has 15 per cent of Midland and both sides have never hidden the fact that they would like to merge at some stage. The speculators believe they might decide to get together sooner rather than later.

This latest flurry of activity was prompted by heavy call business in the traded options market which later spilled over into the main market. More than 1 million shares were traded.

The rest of the clearing banks were dragged higher in Midland's wake, with rises of 3p in **Barclays** on 558p, **Lloyds** on 437p and **National Westminster** on 335p. **TSB Group** also rose 7p to 131p, celebrating the appointment of Mr Don McCrickard, the former American Express director, as its chief executive.

Elsewhere, share prices ended the two-week account on a confident note. The market's strong performance in recent weeks has encouraged investors, and many are forecasting the advance will continue. The FT-SE 100 index ended the shortened day at its best level, 9 points up at 2,362, with the FT index of 30 shares adding 9.4 at 1,868.2.

Business on the last trading day before Christmas is usually low-key with most of the business completed after the first two hours. Turnover reached 373.3 million shares, swollen by a large number of bed- and-breakfast transactions to establish year-end tax losses.



Government securities held early gains of £⅛ in some of the quietest trading this year.

Cable and Wireless continued to respond to the proposed sale of a 20 per cent stake in its Hongkong Telecom subsidiary with a rise of 11p to 559p. **Higgs and Hill** also added 9p to 433p on growing hopes of a counter-bid to the offer from YJ Lovell, unchanged at 230p.

Myson jumped 10p to 234p in the wake of the renewed and recommended offer of 240p a share from **Blue Circle Industries**. This came only hours after the rival bids for the company were cleared by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. **Yale and Valor**, which had been bidding for Myson, rose 6p to 309p.

With the Myson price standing at a discount to the offer, Blue Circle was able to bid for stock. The group said its latest purchases had carried its holding in Myson to above 50 per cent. Blue Circle recovered a fall to close unchanged at 243p.

Lonrho, the international trading group headed by Mr Tiny Rowland, continued to respond to talk that it is about to sell its platinum offshoot, advancing 7p to 309p. The institutions have been big buyers of the stock lately, ahead of the full-year figures next month. Analysts are expecting pre-tax profits to rise from £225 million to at least £270 million and a healthy increase in the final dividend.

Bid stories have also started to re-surface, prompted by talk that Mr Rowland is thinking of stepping down.

British Steel lost an early lead to finish all-square at 131½p. Its acquisition of C Walker, the steel stockholder, has been referred to the Monopolies Commission.

The directors of Hillsdown Holdings, the food-to-furniture group, will be glad to see the back of 1989. Worries about listeria and salmonella have hit profits and taken their toll of the share price. But it is ending the year on a high note, with the price adding 8p to 275p. Brokers say that the price has fallen far enough and 1990 could see better times ahead.

Whitbread A fell 4p to 385p. As expected, it has sold its wines and spirits division to its rival, **Allied-Lyons**, for £545 million. Whitbread put the division, which includes Long John Scotch and Beefeater gin, up for sale in October. Allied eased 2p to 489p.

Ferranti, the troubled electronics group, slipped ½p to yet another new low of 29½p.

Water shares enjoyed some gains on vague talk that the French may have resumed stake-building. But prices were showing signs of running out of steam later. Recent high-flyer **Anglian** managed to squeeze out a 1p rise at 155½p, while **Southern** on 145p, **South West** on 157p and **Welsh** on 144p all held steady. But there were falls in **Northumbrian**, down 2p at 161p, **North West**, ½p at 138½p, **Severn Trent**, 2½p at 136½p, **Thames**, 2p at 146½p, **Wessex**, 2p at 156p and **Yorkshire** ½p at 157½p. The biggest turnover was seen in Anglian and Thames with 5.7 million shares traded apiece.

Connell, Britain's biggest independent chain of estate agents, leapt 35p to 200p amid growing hopes that its biggest shareholder, Legal & General, which has almost 15 per cent, was about to make an offer for the rest.

Legal & General paid £19 million for Provident Financial's estate agency business this month and is known to be on look-out for others. Dealers say that it could offer up to 300p a share for Connell, which has seen business suffer because of the slump in the housing market.

Michael Clark

RECENT ISSUES

EQUITIES	
Abtrust Thai (100p)	100
Anglo Park	91
Anglo Scan Inv Tst	96 -1
Bartn Hldgs (142p)	146
Biocure (42p)	42
Chiltern Radio (210p)	293
Courtyard Leis (27p)	18 -3
East Surrey Water	£14½
Euro Project (50p)	51
Fired Earth (130p)	131
First Philip (50p)	45
Grosvnr Dev (100p)	105
Hartley Baird	60
Image Store (38p)	42 +1
JF Philippines	28
Lon Merch Sec Dfd	43
Lon & New York (100p)	101
Malaysian Emerg	700 +15
Medin Green Units	506
Micklegate Gp (75p)	73
Millcom Inc	£13¾ +1/16
Pendragon	81 +2
Prospect (10p)	11½
Ramsden (Harry) (100p)	110
Regal Hotels	154
Sage Gp New (130p)	148
Sempernova (40p)	40 -1
Storm Group (38p)	36
Surrey Gp	13
United Drug	134
See main listing for Water shares	
RIGHTS ISSUES	
Amercoeur N/P	¾
Andaman N/P	1
Ass Energy N/P	¾
Assoc Farmers N/P	
Benson Gp N/P	2
Fisons N/P	47 +2
Surrey N/P	2½
Wilkes (J) N/P	4 +1
Wiltaire N/P	2

(issue price in brackets).

THE TIMES STOCK WATCH 0898 141 141

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INTEREST RATES ROUND-UP

	Nominal rate	Compounded at tax rates 25%	40%	Min/max investment £	Notice	Contact
BANKS						
Ordinary Dep A/c: Typical	5.00	5.10	4.08	none/none	7 day	—
Fixed Term Deposits:						
Barclays	9.00	9.00	7.20	2,500-25,000	1 mth	01-626 1567
"	9.75	9.75	7.80	2,500-25,000	6 mth	01-626 1567
Lloyds	10.63	10.63	8.50	2,500-no max	1 mth	Local Brnch
"	11.00	11.00	8.80	2,500-no max	6 mth	Local Brnch
Midland	10.56	10.56	8.45	10,000-no max	1 mth	01-260 2805
" " "	10.47	10.47	8.38	10,000-no max	6 mth	01-260 2805
NatWest	10.88	10.88	8.70	10,000-24,000	1 mth	01-726 1000
" " "	10.75	10.75	8.60	10,000-24,000	6 mth	01-726 1000
HIGH INTEREST CHEQUE ACCOUNTS						
Bank of Scotland MMC	10.84	11.18	8.94	2,500	none	031-442 7777
Barclays Prime a/c	9.50	9.84	7.87	1,500‡	none	0604 252891
Co-operative Ultra	7.10	7.30	5.84	No min‡	none	01 626 6543
Girobank	9.25	9.25	7.40	1,000‡	none	051 966 2076
Lloyds HICA	7.00	7.20	5.76	500‡	none	01-325 3338
Midland HICA	9.00	9.31	7.45	2,000‡	none	—
NatWest Special Reserve	9.00	9.31	7.45	500‡	none	01-374 3374
Royal Bank of Scot Prem A/c	9.75	10.11	8.09	2,500	none	031-556 8555
TSB England & Wales	9.00	9.00	7.20	2,000	none	01-600 6000
BUILDING SOCIETIES						
Ordinary Share A/c	6.15	6.15	4.92	1 min	none	—
Best buy – largest socs:						
North of Engl.	6.90	6.90	5.52	1 min	none	—
Heart of Engl.	9.25	9.25	7.40	250 min	—	—
Holmesdale Bsoc	10.41	10.41	8.32	500 min	—	—
Chelt & Glouc	10.00	10.00	8.00	10,000 min	—	—
Teachers	11.00	11.00	8.80	20,000 min	—	—
Best buy – all socs:						
Holmesdale Bsoc	10.41	10.41	8.32	500 min	none	—
Guardian	11.10	11.57	9.25	3,000 min	30 day	—
Holmesdale Bsoc	11.04	11.04	8.83	500 min	60 day	—
Mornington	11.20	11.20	8.95	1,000 min	90 day	—
Lambeth	10.25	10.51	8.40	250 min	6 mths	—
Cash/Cheque Accounts:						
Halifax Card Cash	3.75	3.75	3.00	1 min		Rates rise
Alliance & Leicester	6.90	6.90	5.52	500 min		with larger
Nationwide Anglia Flex	6.00	6.00	4.80	500 min		balances

Compiled by Chase de Vere Moneyline - call 01 404 5766 for further details

	Nominal rate	25%	40%	Min/max investment £	Notice	Contact
NATIONAL SAVINGS						
Ordinary A/c¹	5.00	3.75	3.00	5-10,000	8 day	041-649-4555
Investment A/c*	11.75	8.81	7.05	5-100,000	1 mth	041-649-4555
Income Bond*	12.50	9.38	7.50	2,000-100,000	3 mth	0253 66151
Deposit Bond*□	12.50	9.38	7.50		3 mth	041-649-4555
34th Issue Cert*†	7.50	7.50	7.50	25-1,000	8 day	091-3864900
Yearly Plan†	7.50	7.50	7.50	20-200/mth	14 day	091-3864900
General Extension Rate†	5.01	5.01	5.01			
Capital Bond	12.00	9.02	7.23	100-no max	5 yrs	041-649-4555
GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS						
New Direction Fin	11.75	11.75	9.98	1,000 min	1 yrs	Figures from
Regency	10.85	10.85	9.23	10,000 min	2 yrs	Chase de
Consolidated Life	10.50	10.50	8.92	2,000 min	3 yrs	Vere call
Pegasus	10.40	10.40	8.84	1,000 min	4 yrs	01 404 5766
Hill Samuel	10.30	10.30	9.98	5,000 min	5 yrs	for details

		Holiday rates	2 buys
RPI (November 88-89)	+7.7%	Spanish Pesetas:	174.75
Bank Base Rate	15.0%	French Francs:	9.32
Personal Loan	19.7%	Greek Drachmas:	257.00
Credit Card	16-26.8%	Italian Lire:	2040.00

¹2.8% for balances below £500, first £70 of interest tax free, instant access for withdrawals of £100 or less * Additional holdings up to £10,000 for investors re-investing proceeds of existing matured certificates †Tax free *Interest taxable paid gross ‡Higher rates for larger sums □ No longer on sale **Compiled by KAREN BUCKLEY**

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UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

	Bid	Offer	Chng	Yld
AETNA LIFE INSURANCE 401, St John Street, London EC1V 4QE 01-837 6494				
Life Funds				
Squirrel	13.13	13.83	+0.03	..
Bear	14.00	14.74	+0.04	..
Owl	17.58	18.48	-0.04	..
Bull	18.08	18.88	-0.15	..
Stag	16.50	17.37	-0.13	..
Gilt Edged		12.28	+0.10	..
Deposit		11.62	+0.01	..
Pensions				
Squirrel	15.83	16.67	+0.04	..
Bear	17.29	18.20	+0.07	..
Owl	22.81	24.02	-0.06	..
Bull	20.48	21.56	-0.21	..
Stag	19.93	20.98	-0.16	..
Gilt Edged		13.99	+0.13	..
Deposit		13.61	+0.02	..
Exempt App Mixed	219.4	223.8	-1.09	..
ABBEY LIFE 80, Holdenhurst Rd, Bournemouth BH8 8AL 0202 292373				
Property Fund Inc	302.0	317.9	+0.2	..
Do Accum	465.8	490.2	+0.3	..
Equity Fund Income	135.6	142.8		..
Do Accum	157.3	165.6	-0.1	..
Selective Fund	353.9	372.5	+0.4	..
Money Fund	268.9	283.1	+0.5	..
Prop Fd Ser 4	361.9	381.0	+0.2	..
Equity Ser 4	158.4	166.8	-0.2	..
Man Ser 4	453.4	477.3	-0.9	..
Conv Ser 4	239.5	252.2	+0.4	..
Money Ser 4	239.4	252.0	+0.4	..
Fixed Int Fd Ser 4	222.2	234.0	+2.0	..
American Ser 4	324.9	342.0	-8.5	..
High Inc Ser 4	463.6	488.1	+0.7	..
Indexed Inv Ser 4	144.5	152.2	+0.6	..
Japan Ser 4	369.0	388.5	-7.8	..
ALBANY LIFE 3, Darkes Lane, Potters Bar 0707 42311				
Equity Fd Acc	£10.75	11.32	+0.05	..
European Fd Accum	283.0	297.9	+2.4	..
Fixed Int Acc	350.6	369.0	+2.1	..
Gtd Money Fd Acc	244.9	257.7	+0.3	..
Intl Man Fd Acc	433.3	456.0	-4.3	..
Int Fxd Int Fd Acc	215.7	227.0	+0.3	..
Japan Fund	318.6	335.4	-2.9	..
Nth American Fd Acc	214.4	225.6	-6.6	..
Prop Fd Acc	349.0	367.4	+0.2	..
Multiple Inv Acc	741.6	780.6	+0.2	..
ALLIED DUNBAR ASSURANCE Swindon SN1 1EL 0793-514514				
Fixed Int Dep Accum	272.0	286.4	+0.4	..
Equity Accum	907.7	955.5	-3.1	..
Property Accum	521.4	548.9	+0.2	..
Far East Accum	228.2	240.3	-2.2	..
Managed Capital	396.0	416.9	-6.5	..
Do Accum	712.8	750.4	-1.9	..
Overseas Accum	612.4	644.7	-0.3	..
Gilt Edged Accum	317.8	334.6	+3.3	..
Amer Equity Accum	478.3	503.5	-10.8	..
Amer Man Accum	220.4	232.0	-4.6	..
Amer Prop Accum	149.8	157.7	-0.7	..
ABTRUST MANAGEMENT LTD 10 Queens Terrace Aberdeen AB9 1QJ Freephone 0800 833 580				
Managed Growth	369.7	389.1	+1.87	..
Managed Income	141.9	149.3	-2.34	..
International	251.1	264.3	+1.73	..
High Income	225.8	237.4	+4.25	..
Income & Growth	316.0	332.7	+5.59	..
Basic Resource	154.7	162.9	+0.86	..
American	209.4	220.4	-0.20	..
Japan & General	593.5	632.7	-3.84	..
Special Situations	266.1	280.1	+2.54	..
BARCLAYS LIFE 252 Romford Rd, London E7 9JB 01-534 5544				
Equity Accum	601.8	633.5	+0.2	..
Do Initial	473.7	498.7	+0.1	..
Gilt Edged Accum	242.2	255.0	+3.2	..
Do Initial	192.3	202.5	+2.5	..
International Accum	333.0	350.6	-5.9	..
Do Initial	262.7	276.6	-4.6	..
Managed Accum	400.1	421.2	-3.0	..
Do Initial	316.2	332.9	-2.4	..
Money Accum	213.2	224.5	+0.5	..
Do Initial	163.2	171.8	+0.2	..
Property Accum	331.8	349.3	+0.3	..
Do Initial	259.6	273.3	+0.1	..
America Accum	201.1	211.7	-4.9	..
Do Initial	161.4	169.9	-4.0	..
Australia Accum	182.5	192.4	..	..
Do Initial	150.7	158.7	..	..
Financial Accum	273.3	287.7	+1.5	..
Do Initial	219.3	230.9	+1.2	..
500 Accum	317.5	334.3	+0.2	..
Do Initial	251.2	264.5	+0.1	..
Japan & Gen Acc 2	492.5	518.5	-11.8	..
Do Initial 2	387.4	407.8	-9.3	..
Income Accum	383.2	362.4	-0.2	..
Do Initial	290.2	305.5	-0.2	..
Leisure Accum	226.0	237.9	-1.9	..
Special Sits Accum	154.8	163.0	-7.1	..
Univ Tech Accum	122.3	128.8	-2.0	..
Do Initial	100.5	105.8	-1.8	..
BLACK HORSE LIFE Mountbatten House Chatham Kent ME4 4JF 0634 834000				
The Managed Fund		542.74	-2.05	..
Income Fund	545.3	574.6	+4.50	..
Extra Income Fund	484.5	510.0	-1.06	..
Worldwide Growth Fd	402.3	423.5	-2.76	..
Balanced Fund	443.3	466.6	-5.30	..
Smlr Co's & Rc Fd	517.5	544.7	-10.39	..
Int Technology Fund	381.2	401.3	-11.34	..
N Amer & Gen Fund	273.7	288.1	-6.08	..
Energy Int Fund	151.8	159.8	+0.49	..
Pacific Basin Fund	355.0	373.7	-3.58	..
German Growth Fd	173.9	183.0	-1.32	..
Japan Growth Fd	226.2	238.1	-3.37	..
The UK Gth Fd	147.6	155.4	+0.55	..
Contl Euro Gth	97.49	102.6	-0.48	..
Property Fund	314.3	330.8	+0.69	..
Fixed Interest Fund	218.9	230.4	+5.24	..
Cash Fund	211.7	222.9	+0.48	..
Managed Inv Fund	339.7	357.6	-1.36	..
Nth Amer Recov	144.5	152.1	-0.62	..
CANADA LIFE 2-6, High St, Potters Bar, Herts P Bar 51122				
Equity Growth		280.2		..
Managed	236.9	249.4	-0.2	..
Property	198.4	208.9	+0.1	..
Gilt & Fixed Int	159.9	168.4	+1.1	..
Index-Linked	141.2	148.7	+0.2	..
Equity	254.8	268.0	+3.9	..
Cash	166.2	175.0	+0.1	..
Midland Bk UT	251.2	264.5	-0.6	..
Midland Bk Int	282.6	297.5	-3.6	..
CANNON ASSURANCE 1 Olympic Way, Wembley, Middx HA9 0NB 01-902 8876				
Equity Units		629.9	-0.2	..
Property Units		£31.62		..
Bal Bd Exec Unit	£46.46	49.16	-0.38	..
2nd Equity Accum	448.6	474.7	-0.9	..
2nd High Inc/Accum	430.6	455.7		..
2nd Property Accum	308.4	326.3		..
2nd Managed 2 Acc	137.8	145.8	+0.1	..
2nd Managed Acc	330.2	349.4	-2.4	..
2nd Managed 4 Acc	153.6	162.5	-2.3	..
2nd Deposit Accum	211.7	224.0	+0.4	..
2nd Gilt Accum	201.2	212.9	+1.7	..
2nd Amer Accum	302.5	320.1	-14.1	..
2nd Intl Money Ac	193.9	205.2	-0.4	..
2nd Index Accum	134.5	142.3	+1.1	..
2nd Far East Accum	334.1	353.5	-4.4	..
2nd Global Accum	108.3	114.6	-2.5	..
2nd Euro Accum	126.8	134.2	-0.1	..
2nd Japan Accum	203.5	215.3	-5.6	..
2nd Heritage Acc	75.8	80.2		..
2nd Intl Curr Bond	101.0	106.9	+0.2	..
2nd Strat Opp Acc	103.5	109.5	+0.3	..
CITY OF WESTMINSTER ASSURANCE Sentry House, 500, Avebury Blvd, Cntl Milton Keynes MK9 2LA 0908-606101				
Property Fund	210.6	221.7		..
Money Fund	277.4	292.0	+0.5	..
Managed Fund	520.3	547.7	+2.5	..
Equity Fund	388.3	408.8	+3.7	..
Fixed Interest Fund	162.2	171.2	+0.7	..
Far East Fund	430.3	453.0	-2.5	..
Nth Amer Fund	159.0	167.4	-6.4	..
Nat Resources Fund	254.9	268.4	+1.3	..
Alexandra Fund	113.2	119.2	..	..
CLERICAL MEDICAL/FIDELITY INTERNATIONAL Narrow Plain, Bristol BS2 0JH 0272 290566				
Assurance Funds				
Sapphire Mixed	199.7	210.3	-1.4	..
Ruby	123.4	129.9	-1.5	..
Emerald	103.9	109.4	+1.0	..
Equity	222.0	233.7	-2.4	..
Property	205.1	215.9	+0.1	..
Gilt & Fixed Int	136.8	144.0	+2.8	..
Indexed Secs	122.4	128.9	+1.4	..
Cash	135.0	142.2	+0.2	..
Nth American	138.2	145.5	-4.6	..
Far East	239.1	251.7	-2.8	..
International	165.5	174.3	-2.3	..
Special Sits	232.1	244.4	-1.7	..
Intl Income	207.4	218.4	-1.2	..
American Inc	133.8	140.9	-3.3	..
European	239.4	252.0	+1.8	..
Japanese	167.2	176.1	-2.3	..
SE Asia	188.4	198.4	-2.0	..
Home Inv WP Reg	109.2	115.0	+0.2	..
Home Inv WP Spec	109.2	115.0	+0.2	..
Flexible Retirement Plans Funds				
Mixed	208.9	219.9	-1.5	..
Equity	226.4	238.4	-1.5	..
Property	185.4	195.2	+0.2	..
Gilt & Fixed Int	150.8	158.8	+2.3	..
Index Linked	131.1	138.0	+1.8	..
Cash	161.1	169.6	+0.5	..
Nth American	156.4	164.7	-7.7	..
Far East Acc	295.7	311.3	-4.1	..
International Acc	196.2	206.6	-4.5	..
Special Sits	332.6	350.2	-4.5	..
European Flex	311.7	328.2	-0.1	..
COLONIAL MUTUAL 24 Ludgate Hill, London EC4P 4BD 01-248 9861				
CML U AssKey		194.1	..	..
CML U AssPacemkr		250.38	..	..
CML U AssCash	152.6	160.7	..	..
CML U AssEquity	396.9	417.7	..	..
CML U AssFI	221.2	232.9	..	..
CML U AssMngd	295.2	310.7	..	..
CML U AssProp	349.0	367.4	..	..
CML(Pen)Cash Cap	161.3	169.9	..	..
CML(Pen)Cash Inv	198.4	208.9	..	..
CML(Pen)Eqty Cap	£10.91	11.548	..	..
CML(Pen)Eqty Inv	£13.41	14.202	..	..
CML(Pen)Fxd Cap	252.5	265.8	..	..
CML(Pen)Fxd Inv	310.5	326.8	..	..
CML(Pen)Indx Cap	163.2	171.9	..	..
CML(Pen)Indx Inv	200.7	211.2	..	..
CML(Pen)Man Cap	450.8	474.5	..	..
CML(Pen)Man Inv	554.4	583.6	..	..
COMMERCIAL UNION St Helen's, 1 Undershaft, EC3 01-283 7500				
Var Ann Accum (5)		455.22	..	..
Var Ann (5)		82.81	..	..
Prime- Managed	301.7	317.6	-0.8	..
Prime- UK Equity	373.3	392.5	-0.7	..
Prime- Intl Equity	244.2	257.1	-2.8	..
Prime- Property	219.1	229.6	+0.9	..
Prime- Fixed Interest	162.9	171.5	+1.3	..
Prime- Index-Linked	128.5	135.3	+0.6	..
Prime- Cash	150.3	158.3	+0.3	..
CONFEDERATION LIFE 50 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1HE 01-242 0282				
Managed Fund	820.1	863.2	..	..
Equity Fund	£11.06	11.64	..	..
PIP Fund		£34.036	..	..
CROWN FINANCIAL Crown House, Woking GU21 1XW 04862 5033				
Life Managed Acc	425.7	448.1	-2.1	..
Life Fixed Int Accum	250.1	263.2	+2.7	..
Life Equity Accum	555.6	584.8	-1.2	..
Life Money Accum	219.6	231.1	+0.4	..
Life Inv Trust Accum	534.0	562.1	-2.4	..
Life Intl Accum	416.7	438.6	-7.8	..
Life High Inc Accum	589.9	620.9	+0.6	..
Life Property Accum	244.1	256.9	+0.1	..
Crown Bnl Inv A	805.4	885.3	..	..
Brewin Equity	679.0	714.7	..	..
DBS Managed	227.7	239.6	..	..
Growth Accum	339.3	357.1	-1.8	..
CRUSADER INSURANCE Reigate Surrey RH2 8BL 07372 42424				
Measured perf	112.2	118.7	-0.7	..
Performance Plus	109.2	115.6	-0.7	..
With Profit Perf	122.9	130.0	+0.2	..
UK Opportunity	139.6	147.7	-1.9	..
Euro Opportunity	135.6	143.5	-0.8	..
North Amer Opp	103.0	109.0	-3.9	..
Far East Opp	133.5	141.3	-1.0	..
Gilt Prop Series 1	212.0	224.1	..	..
Gilt Prop Series 2	161.3	170.7	-3.1	..
Fixed Int	114.9	120.6	+1.3	..
Cash	116.2	123.0	+0.3	..
Managed Pens	415.7	422.1		..
Overseas	114.3	120.9	-1.7	..
EAGLE STAR INSURANCE Bath Road, Cheltenham, Gloucester GL53 7LQ 0242 221311				
Secure Fund	128.0	134.8	+0.3	..
Blue Chip Fund	168.1	177.0	-0.4	..
Adventurous Fund	184.5	194.3	-1.4	..
Performance Fund	196.1	206.5	-1.8	..
EAGLE STAR/MIDLAND 1 Threadneedle St, London EC2 01-588 1212				
Eagle/Midland Units	202.7	210.1	+0.4	3.90
EQUITY & LAW Amersham Road, High Wycombe 0494 463463				
Reserve				
Balced (Mxd)	478.9	504.1	-2.2	..
Opportunity	127.5	134.3	-3.1	..
UK Equities	630.2	663.3	-4.1	..
Higher Inc	667.9	703.0	+2.8	..
North Amer	264.6	278.5	-8.0	..
Far East	438.7	461.7	-15.2	..
Europe	321.9	338.8	+1.2	..
Intnl	385.5	405.8	-5.6	..
Property	462.0	486.3	+0.3	..
Fixed Int	278.8	293.2	+2.0	..
Ind-Lnkd Sec	131.2	138.1	+0.5	..
G'teed Depst	214.9	226.2	+0.4	..
FRIENDS' PROVIDENT Castle Street, Salisbury, Wilts SP1 3SH 0722 336242				
Managed (Mixed)	218.7	230.3	-0.8	..
UK Equity	273.6	288.0	+0.7	..
Stewardship	248.2	262.4	+1.0	..
Overseas Equity	223.8	235.6	-3.8	..
North American	112.5	118.5	-3.2	..
Pacific Basin	126.2	132.9	-1.6	..
European	152.2	160.3	+0.9	..
Property	203.3	214.0	+0.1	..
Fixed Interest	148.6	156.5	+0.5	..
Index Linked	122.3	128.8	+0.8	..
Cash	143.9	151.5	+0.2	..
GT MANAGEMENT 8th Floor 8 Devonshire Square London EC2M 4YJ 01-283 2575				
GT Plan Bond Fund	208.3	219.3	+1.3	..
GT Plan High Yield	287.1	302.3	+2.4	..
GT Plan Far East	346.5	364.8	+2.4	..
GT Plan North Amer	154.7	162.8	-5.7	..
GT Plan UK & GE	377.8	397.7	+1.7	..
GT Plan Worldwide	329.8	347.2	-2.8	..
GENERAL ACCIDENT LINKED LIFE 2, Rougier Street, York YO1 1HR 0904 628982				
Managed	152.5	160.4	-0.5	..
UK Equity	197.8	208.1	-1.2	..
Fixed Int	129.2	135.9	+1.0	..
Index-Linked	121.8	128.1	+0.4	..
Cash Deposit	128.6	135.5	+0.2	..
Property	167.0	175.6	+0.3	..
International	134.3	141.2	-0.6	..
American	101.1	106.4	-2.7	..
Japan	205.7	216.4	+3.1	..
Japan Smlr Co's	209.3	220.3	+3.4	..
European	137.1	144.3	+1.6	..
Pacific Fund	145.3	152.9	-0.3	..
Conv Life	103.9	109.3	-0.1	..
GENERAL PORTFOLIO LIFE Crossbrook St, Cheshunt Herts 0992 31971				
Portfolio Fd Acc		633.7	-0.8	..
Do Inc		343.8	-0.7	..
Do Inv II	533.6	561.7	-0.9	..
UK Equity	285.0	300.1	+0.8	..
Oseas Equity	197.8	208.3	-2.4	..
Smaller Cos	175.4	184.6	+0.1	..
Gilt Plus	140.8	148.3	+1.2	..
Do 88	142.7	150.3	..	..
Fixed Int Dep	135.4	142.6	+0.1	..
Managed	225.3	237.2	-0.3	..
Inter Man	197.9	208.4	-1.1	..
GRESHAM UNIT 2-6, Prince of Wales Road, Bournemouth 0202 752000				
Managed Bond	561.8	581.5	-6.9	..
Money Fund	232.3	244.8	+0.4	..
Equity Fund	425.2	448.0	+0.7	..
Fixed Interest Fund	177.9	187.5	+0.4	..
Property Fund	329.4	347.1	..	..
Gresham Framlington				
American & General	279.6	294.5	-7.1	..
Income	525.1	553.3	+3.9	..
International Grwth	334.8	352.6	-4.2	..
Capital Fund	456.8	481.3	+1.8	..
Recovery Fund	369.0	388.8	+3.0	..
Japan & General	288.1	303.5	-8.7	..
GUARDIAN ROYAL EXCHANGE Royal Exchange London EC3 01-283 7101				
Ats Prop Bds	729.6	758.9	..	..
Managed Initial	400.0	421.1	+4.2	..
Do Accum	510.2	537.1	+5.6	..
Equity Initial	606.3	638.2	+9.0	..
Do Accum	773.4	814.1	+11.8	..
Fixed Int Initial	275.6	290.1	+1.2	..
Do Accum	351.5	370.0	+1.8	..
Intl Initial	381.2	401.2	-3.8	..
Do Accum	486.2	511.8	-4.9	..
Nth Amer Initial	123.4	129.8	-3.0	..
Do Accum	143.2	150.7	-3.4	..
Pacific Initial	242.4	255.1	-0.7	..
Do Accum	278.7	293.4	-0.7	..
Property Initial	214.5	225.8	..	..
Do Accum	273.2	287.6	..	..
Index-Linked Initial	124.7	131.2	+0.3	..
Do Accum	144.7	152.3	+0.4	..
Deposit Initial	158.4	166.7	+0.2	..
Do Accum	202.0	212.6	+0.3	..
Euro Initial	87.4	92.0	+0.1	..
Do Accum	93.8	98.7	+0.1	..
HAMBRO GUARDIAN ASSURANCE 41 Tower Hill London EC3N 4HA 01-702 9981				
Managed	114.8	120.8	-0.1	..
Do Pens	122.5	128.9	+0.1	..
UK Equity	110.6	116.4	+1.8	..
Do Pens	114.3	120.3	+2.2	..
International	114.8	120.8	-0.8	..
Do Pens	122.8	129.2	-1.0	..
Deposit	104.2	109.8	..	..
Do Pens	110.0	115.7	+0.1	..
HENDERSON ADMINISTRATION 3, Finsbury Ave London EC2M 2PA 01-638 5757				
UK Equity Inc	328.6	341.8	+2.5	..
UK Capital Gth	219.2	230.8	+1.4	..
Global Equity	294.2	316.6	-40.3	..
North America Fund	244.1	257.7	-8.4	..
Far East Fund	429.6	453.5	-1.4	..
Managed Fund	342.0	361.0	-2.8	..
Deposit Fund	165.9	174.7	+0.3	..
Prime Residential	180.1	188.8	-0.4	..
Property Share Fd	219.2	230.8	+1.4	..
HILL SAMUEL LIFE NLA Tower, Addiscombe Road, Croydon 01-686 4355				
Security Fund	344.0	362.2	+0.8	..
British Fund	346.8	365.1	+1.2	..
International Fund	368.3	387.7	-3.3	..
Dollar Fund	292.6	285.9	-5.8	..
Capital Fund	324.3	341.4	-0.6	..
Income Fund	468.4	493.1	+0.6	..
Property Series 'A'	415.3	437.2	..	..
Property Units	716.9	752.6	..	..
Financial Fund	337.4	355.2	+1.9	..
Managed Series 'A'	385.2	405.5	+0.3	..
Do 'C'	250.3	263.5	+0.1	..
Managed Units	680.4	716.3	+0.5	..
High Yield Fund	436.7	459.7	+1.2	..
Money Series 'A'	208.1	219.1	+0.4	..
Money Units	270.1	284.4	+0.5	..
Equity Fund	424.8	447.2	-1.4	..
Fixed Interest Fund	238.7	251.3	+1.7	..
Indexed Secs Fund	133.7	140.8	+1.0	..
European Fund	543.0	571.6	..	..
Natural Res Fund	240.7	253.4	-1.3	..
Far East Fund	500.5	526.9	-2.7	..
Smaller Co's Fund	380.4	400.5	-1.7	..
Special Sits Fund	364.7	383.9	+0.4	..
Man Currency Fund	207.9	218.9	+0.2	..
Japanese Tech	256.8	270.4	-2.0	..
US Smaller Co's	112.6	118.6	-3.3	..
IRISH LIFE ASSURANCE Longbow House, 20, Chiswell St, London EC1 4TY 01-638 1731				
Global Managed 3	385.6	405.9	-1.5	..
Global Property 3	230.3	242.4	..	..
Global Fixed Int 3	326.8	344.0	+2.2	..
Global Equity 3	442.1	465.4	-2.7	..
Global Cash 3	154.2	162.3	+0.3	..
LAS GROUP 10, George Street, Edinburgh EH2 2YH 031-225 2484				
Managed Fund	250.8	264.0	+2.8	..
UK Equity	384.8	405.1	-0.8	..
Property	278.0	293.2	..	..
Money Market	184.2	193.9	+0.3	..
Fixed Interest	217.2	228.6	+1.6	..
Japan	379.7	399.7	-12.7	..
North America	117.2	123.4	-5.7	..
International	189.2	199.4	..	..
European	183.1	192.7	-3.6	..
Far East	118.2	124.4	-4.6	..
Special Sits	96.4	101.5	-3.2	..
LAURENTIAN LIFE Barnwood Gloucester GL4 7RZ 0452 371371				
Growth Fund	362.2	382.8	-0.9	..
Managed Fd	299.0	314.7	-0.6	..
Fixed Int Fd	264.7	278.6	+1.7	..
Secure Cap Fd	211.2	222.3	+0.3	..
Equity Fd	866.0	911.6	-2.1	..
Property Fd	260.1	273.8	+0.2	..
Managed	381.2	401.3	-0.8	..
Gtd Mgd	351.2	369.7	-1.4	..
Property	484.2	469.6	+0.4	..
American	297.6	313.3	-3.2	..
UK Equity Fd	495.4	521.5	-1.2	..
High Yield	578.2	608.6	+1.8	..
Gilt Edged	293.5	308.9	+1.9	..
Money	292.9	308.3	+0.5	..
International	325.8	342.7	-2.8	..
Henderson Active	171.2	180.2	-1.3	..
Perpetual Active	196.1	206.4	-2.1	..
Growth Cap	383.7	392.4	-0.6	..
Do Accum	461.0	485.3	-0.7	..
LEGAL & GENERAL UNIT ASSURANCE 2, Montefiore Rd, Hove, Sussex BN3 1SE 0273 724555				
Bldg Soc Lnkd Init	116.0	122.2	+0.2	..
Do Accum	136.4	143.6	+0.3	..
Brit Opps Init	108.9	114.7	-0.5	..
Do Accum	116.2	122.4	-0.5	..
Cash Initial	141.9	149.4	+0.2	..
Do Accum	210.1	221.2	+0.4	..
Equity Initial	486.4	512.1	-4.6	..
Do Accum	720.0	757.9	-6.8	..
Fixed Initial	258.6	272.2	+3.1	..
Do Accum	382.6	402.8	+4.6	..
Index-Linked Gilt	110.8	116.7	+1.3	..
Do Accum	140.0	147.4	+1.7	..
Intl Initial	303.3	319.3	-3.1	..
Do Accum	442.1	465.4	-4.4	..
Managed Initial	367.7	387.1	-2.2	..
Do Accum	544.2	572.9	-3.5	..
Property Initial	229.9	242.1	+0.5	..
Do Accum	340.3	358.3	+0.7	..
LEGAL & GENERAL PROPERTY 11, Queen Vic St London EC4N 4TP 01-248 9678				
L & G (29)	284.9	297.0	..	..
LONDON LIFE 100, Temple Street, Bristol, BS1 6EA 0272 279179				
Equity		889.1	-1.8	..
Fixed Interest		257.4	+1.7	..
Property		347.6	+0.2	..
Deposit		200.9	+0.4	..
Mixed		421.0	-1.3	..
Indexed Stock		152.8	+1.2	..
International		214.7	-2.3	..
Equity A		147.1	-0.4	..
Fixed Int A		115.1	+0.8	..
Property A		114.0	+0.1	..
Deposit A		124.3	+0.2	..
Mixed A		129.4	-0.4	..
Index Stock A		120.4	+1.0	..
International A		135.2	-1.4	..
Equity P		486.2	-3.0	..
Fixed Int P		316.0	+2.1	..
Property P		287.7	+0.4	..
Deposit P		223.7	+0.5	..
Mixed P		383.3	-1.8	..
Index Stock P		172.9	+1.3	..
International P		242.8	-3.0	..
LON & MANCHESTER GROUP Winslade Park, Exeter EX5 1DS 0392 52155				
Inv Trust Cap		497.6	-1.0	..
Do Accum		670.8	-0.9	..
Property Cap		190.6	-0.2	..
Do Accum		251.3	-0.1	..
Fixed Interest Cap		163.3	+2.6	..
Do Accum		214.2	+3.5	..
Equity Cap		256.6	-0.8	..
Do Accum		339.7	-0.8	..
International Cap		211.7	-1.0	..
Do Accum		278.3	-1.2	..
Gtd Deposit Cap		155.7	+0.1	..
Do Accum		203.3	+0.2	..
Flexible Cap		296.7	-0.5	..
Do Accum		392.0	-0.6	..
Moneymaster Fund		320.2	-0.6	..
Capital Growth Fund		£10.545	-0.02	..
M & G Three Quays, Tower Hill EC3R 6BQ 01-626-4588				
Amer Bond Acc	269.7	283.3	-6.0	..
Amer Rec Bond	320.9	337.0	-7.3	..
Amer Smlr Co Bond	123.7	130.0	-4.6	..
Australasia Bond	159.8	167.8	+1.3	..
Commodity Bond	231.2	242.9	-0.8	..
Deposit Bond Acc	259.0	278.3	+0.5	..
Equity Bond Accum	941.2	988.4	-1.0	..
European Bond Acc	257.0	269.9	+0.5	..
Extra Yld Bd Accum	498.2	523.3	+2.1	..
Far East Bd Accum	195.6	205.7	-0.2	..
Gilt Bond Accum	277.3	291.3	+3.5	..
Gold Bond Accum	128.0	134.5	-3.1	..
High Yield Bond	303.0	318.3	+1.0	5.84
Index-Linked Gt Bd	152.7	160.4	+1.6	..
International Bond	536.9	563.9	-4.6	..
Japan Bond Acc	321.3	337.4	-8.4	..
Japan Smlr Co Acc	251.8	264.3	-3.8	..
Managed Bonds	583.8	623.6	+0.2	..
Prop Bond Accum	376.1	395.0	+0.4	..
Rec Bond Accum	503.0	528.3	-0.2	..
MGM ASSURANCE MGM Hse Heene Rd, Worthing BN11 2DY 0903 204631				
UK Equity Fund	205.9	215.8	+0.2	..
Do Accum	249.3	262.6	+0.4	..
Special Sits Fund	174.9	184.2	-0.8	..
Do Accum	211.9	223.1	-1.1	..
North American Fd	151.1	159.1	-4.2	..
Do Accum	183.0	192.7	-4.9	..
Pacific Basin Fund	339.7	357.6	-4.1	..
Do Accum	411.4	433.1	-4.9	..
Fixed Interest Fund	217.5	229.0	+1.8	..
Do Accum	263.6	277.5	+2.3	..
Property Fund	181.6	191.2	..	..
Do Accum	220.0	231.6	+0.1	..
Deposit Fund	122.7	129.2	+0.1	..
Do Accum	148.9	156.8	+0.2	..
Managed Fund	215.6	227.0	-1.1	..
Do Accum	256.2	269.7	-1.0	..
MANUFACTURERS LIFE St Georges Way, Stevenage 0438 356101				
Managed Fund	536.9	565.2	..	..
Property Fund	321.1	348.5	..	..
Equity Fund	643.5	679.5	..	..
Gilt Edged Fund	392.2	412.8	..	..
Deposit Fund	240.0	252.6	..	..
Investment Fund	273.4	287.1	..	..
International Fund	479.8	505.1	..	..
MERCHANT INVESTORS Leon House, 233 High St Croydon 01-686 9171				
Property		509.6	+0.9	..
Equity Bond		220.2	+4.4	..
Money Market Bond		327.5	+1.8	..
Deposit Fund		274.2	..	..
Managed Fund		348.9	+1.5	..
Intl Equity		397.0	+2.4	..
Intl Managed		374.5	+2.0	..
North American		141.8	-1.8	..
Far East		352.7	+2.3	..
Intl Currency		201.0	+3.7	..
NM UNIT TRUST MANAGERS Enterprise Hse, Portsmouth 0705 827733				
Equity	103.0	108.4	-0.3	..
Fixed Interest	353.7	372.3	+4.5	..
Managed	507.6	534.3	+0.1	..
Deposit	248.6	261.6	+0.3	..
Overseas	297.0	312.6	-3.4	..
Property	410.4	432.0	+2.9	..
American	283.1	298.0	-6.1	..
Australian	322.5	339.5	+3.0	..
European	388.5	408.9	-1.2	..
Gilt & Fixed Int	187.7	197.5	+2.4	..
Global Managed	112.4	118.3	-0.3	..
Income Accum	533.4	561.4	+7.6	..
Do Dist	414.1	435.9●	-1.7	..
International	310.9	327.2	-3.5	..
Japan Smaller	467.3	491.8	+10.7	..
Singapore & Mal	220.7	232.3	+2.8	..
Smaller Companies	387.5	407.8	+0.1	..
Tokyo Fund	615.5	647.8	-4.3	..
UK Equity	451.4	475.1	-1.5	..
CCM Vang'd Mgd	485.4	510.9	+0.1	..
Equity Pension Cap	755.7	795.4	-2.3	..
Overseas Pension	350.0	368.4	-4.9	..
NATIONAL PROVIDENT 48, Gracechurch St, EC3P 3HH 01-623 4200				
Managed	351.7	370.3	-1.9	..
UK Equity	448.2	471.8	-1.9	..
Overseas Equity	361.7	380.8	-4.6	..
American	276.1	290.7	-8.2	..
Far East	423.7	446.1	-8.0	..
Property	280.1	291.7	..	..
Fixed Interest	227.3	239.3	+2.0	..
Indexed Gilt	142.0	149.5	+0.7	..
Deposit	156.8	165.2	+0.3	..
NORWICH UNION PO Box 4, Norwich NR1 3NG 0603 622200				
Managed Fund	937.6	987.0	-3.5	..
Equity Fund	£18.91	19.90	-0.02	..
Property Fund (3)	537.1	565.4	+4.2	..
Fixed Int Fund (3)	402.3	423.5	+2.0	..
Deposit Fund (3)	245.6	258.5	+0.4	..
Ind Fund (30)	165.9	174.7	-2.6	..
Unit-Linked Plus		949.04	..	..
PEARL ASSURANCE 252 High Holborn, WC1V 7EB 01 831-1657				
Inv Prop Dist	181.9	191.5	+0.1	..
Do Accum	311.2	327.6	+0.2	..
Inv Equity	808.6	848.9	+0.3	..
Inv Managed	558.7	589.7	+0.9	..
Ret Managed	553.9	583.6	+2.5	..
PHOENIX ASSURANCE 4-5, King William St, EC4N 7ER 01-626 9876				
Wealth Assured	465.0	489.6	-2.4	..
Ebor Phoenix Equity	384.2	408.1	+7.6	..
PROLIFIC LIFE & PENSIONS Stramongate, Kendal, Cumbria LA9 4BE 0539 33733				
Managed Fund	615.4	648.5	-2.4	..
Cash Fund	243.7	256.8	+0.8	..
Property Fund	300.8	317.1	+0.9	..
Equity Fund	697.9	735.5	-3.9	..
Fxd Interest Fund	294.4	310.3	+0.4	..
International	337.5	355.7	-2.3	..
High Income	462.9	481.9	-0.9	..
Far East	468.8	498.6	+2.8	..
North American	289.6	308.3	-5.9	..
Special Sits	623.2	663.0	-2.7	..
Technology	258.0	274.5	-4.1	..
Extra Income Fund	278.5	294.2	..	..
Gilt Fund 20	304.1	323.6	+3.0	..
PROPERTY GROWTH Leon House, Croydon CR9 1LU 01-680 0606				
Property Fund		501.5	+2.5	..
Property Fund (A)		476.7	+2.4	..
Agricultural Fund		572.7	-4.0	..
Agric Fund (A)		550.4	-3.8	..
Abbey Nat Fund		349.9	+1.0	..
Abbey Nat Fund (A)		377.7	+1.1	..
Investment Fund		259.5	-1.0	..
Investment Fund (A)		242.3	-0.9	..
Equity Fund		321.4	+2.4	..
Equity (A)		391.7	+2.4	..
Money Fund		334.5	+0.3	..
Money Fund (A)		329.2	+0.3	..
Actuarial Fund		419.4	-7.2	..
Gilt-Edged Fund		263.5	+1.2	..
Gilt-Edged Fund (A)		263.5	+1.2	..
Retire Annuity		956.8	..	..
Immed Annuity		344.5	..	..
International Fund		489.7	-10.8	..
Bldg Soc Life Fund		165.4	+0.1	..
PROVIDENCE CAPITAL 30, Uxbridge Rd, W12 8PG 01-749 9111				
Equity Fund Accum	208.2	218.7	+0.9	..
Fixed Interest Acc	148.1	158.3	+1.3	..
International Accum	185.5	195.7	-2.0	..
Managed Accum	169.6	178.9	..	..
Property Accum	242.6	256.2	-0.3	..
Money Accum	111.4	117.6	+0.1	..
Special Mkt Accum	173.4	183.0	+1.3	..
Japan Growth Acc	156.1	164.7	-3.3	..
N Amer Accum	110.1	116.2	-2.8	..
Pacific Accum	106.3	112.2	-1.5	..
Technology Accum	133.0	140.4	-0.2	..
Natural Res Accum	71.6	75.5	-1.5	..
European Accum	111.6	117.8	-0.4	..
PROVIDENT MUTUAL 25/31, Moorgate London EC2R 6BA 01-628 3232				
Managed Ord	339.4	357.3	-0.4	..
Managed Initial	268.5	282.6	-0.5	..
Equity Ord	473.6	498.7	+1.4	..
Equity Init	374.7	394.4	+0.8	..
Index-Linked Gilt Ord		147.2	-3.2	..
Index Linked Gilt Init	121.6	128.6	+0.9	..
Oseas Equity Ord	317.5	334.2	-5.5	..
Oseas Equity Initial	251.2	264.4	-4.4	..
Property Ord	216.5	227.9	+0.1	..
Property Initial	171.3	180.3	+0.1	..
Fixed Int Ord	182.6	192.1	+1.5	..
Fixed Int Initial	144.4	152.0	+1.1	..
Deposit Ord	150.1	158.0	+0.2	..
Deposit Initial	118.7	124.9	+0.1	..
PRUDENTIAL Holborn Bars, EC1N 2NH 01-405 9222				
Managed	251.2	261.7	-0.4	..
PRUDENTIAL HOLBORN LIFE LTD 30 Old Burlington Street London W1X 1LB 01-439 3134				
Managed Fund	546.9	575.7	+0.4	..
Equity Fund	£10.95	11.53	+0.05	..
Intl Fund	397.3	418.3	-8.6	..
Fixed Interest Fund	380.3	400.4	+3.3	..
Property Fund	409.0	430.6	+5.3	..
Cash Fund	266.0	280.1	+0.3	..
Pacific Basin Fund	222.8	234.6	-3.4	..
N American Fd	158.2	166.6	-6.3	..
Euro Fund	183.4	193.1	-0.3	..
Balanced Fund	115.6	121.7	-0.2	..
Strategic Fund	117.8	124.1	-0.6	..
REGENCY LIFE ASS CO 55-57 High Holborn London WC1V 6DU 01-831 7481				
Series 2 Man Fund	318.7	335.4	-0.8	..
Series 2 Equity Fund	383.5	403.7	-1.1	..
Series 2 Prop Fund	397.7	418.6	+3.7	..
Series 2 Fix Int Fund	248.6	261.6	+0.6	..
Series 2 Money Fd	183.7	193.3	+0.3	..
Series 2 O'seas Fd	291.3	306.6	-4.4	..
Tulip Invest Fund	357.9	376.6	-2.8	..
Tulip Managd Fund	400.2	421.2	-1.2	..
Mngd Inv Fd Int	275.1	289.5	-0.9	..
Do Accum	326.7	343.8	-1.0	..
ROYAL HERITAGE LIFE ASSURANCE LTD 20 Cithons Street London EC2A 4HX 01-920 0202 0733 262524				
Multi Growth (45)		507.21	..	..
Multi Growth A (45)	507.3	534.0	..	..
Op 8 Prop	433.0	456.0	-1.8	..
Op 8 Equity	742.0	781.1	-0.7	..
Op 8 High Yield	356.4	375.2	-0.7	..
Op 8 Managed	590.2	621.3	-2.5	..
Op 8 Deposit	286.7	301.8	-0.4	14.75
Op 8 US Dollar	81.6	85.9		8.75
Amer Smaller	125.4	132.0	-4.4	..
Commodity	92.4	97.3	-0.2	..
Extra Inc	153.6	161.7	+0.6	..
Far East	214.9	226.3	-1.2	..
Fnl Secs	169.8	178.8	..	..
Gold Gen	48.2	50.8	+0.2	..
Inc Gth	260.0	273.7	+0.1	..
Intl Fund	164.8	173.5	-1.6	..
Japan Perf	323.8	340.9	-6.4	..
Japan Smlr	253.0	266.4	-2.3	..
Natl High	237.0	249.5	+1.5	..
Prop Shs	178.7	188.2	-0.4	..
Intl Recovery	238.2	250.8	-5.3	..
Smaller Cos	216.7	228.2	-0.9	..
Univ Energy	72.5	76.4	..	..
World Tech	144.8	152.5	..	..
Managed Gth	208.9	219.9	-1.8	..
Gilt	77.5	81.6	-0.3	..
Hong Kong	93.1	98.1	-3.1	..
Aust Gth	83.3	88.7	..	..
Amer (35.24)	158.0	167.4	-4.7	..
Australian	72.7	76.6	..	..
British	228.5	240.6	-0.1	..
Commodity	155.9	164.2	..	..
Extra Inc	193.6	203.8	-2.4	..
Far Eastern	269.8	284.0	..	..
Intl Fixed Int	89.8	94.6	-1.1	..
Global (35.34)	319.7	336.6	-5.2	..
Gold Share	73.5	77.4	..	..
High Income	263.9	277.8	+1.4	..
Income	341.9	359.9	+0.5	..
Japan	357.2	376.0	-9.5	..
Special Sits	228.5	240.6	+1.8	..
UK Smlr Co's	284.4	299.4	+1.9	..
Man Growth	348.1	366.5	-1.5	..
ROYAL LIFE INSURANCE New Hall Place, Liverpool L69 3HS 051-227 4422				
Royal Shield Fund	645.6	683.1	-4.1	..
Royal Life Unit Linked				
Managed Fund	265.5	279.4	-1.7	..
Equity Fund	355.6	374.3	+0.4	..
Property Fund	217.2	228.6	-1.8	..
International Fund	343.0	361.0	-4.4	..
Pacific Basin Fund	237.3	249.7	-2.8	..
United States Fund	146.4	154.1	-3.2	..
Gilt Fund	218.4	229.8	+1.6	..
SAVE & PROSPER 1, Finsbury Ave London EC2M 2QY 0708 766966				
Bal Inv Fund	564.7	597.8	-1.7	..
Deposit Fund (2)	271.0	286.8	+0.4	..
Gilt Fund	327.3	346.4	+2.8	..
Global Equity Fund	169.1	179.0	-1.3	..
Property Fund (46)	94.3	99.8s	+0.6	..
AC Bond Fund	115.1	121.8	-0.7	..
SCOTTISH AMICABLE 150 St Vincent St, Glasgow 041-248 2323				
Equity	446.4	469.9	+1.9	..
Fixed Interest	228.2	240.3	+1.7	..
International	314.1	330.7	-3.3	..
Property	245.1	258.1	+0.5	..
Cash	167.7	176.6	+0.5	..
Managed	345.0	363.2	+0.6	..
SCOTTISH EQUITABLE 28, St Andrew Sq, Edinburgh EH2 1YF 031 556 9101				
Cash	128.8	135.6	+0.30	..
Index-Linked	113.2	119.2	+0.5	..
Fixed Interest	119.6	125.8	+0.8	..
Mixed	182.2	191.8	-0.4	..
UK Equity	163.4	172.0	+0.7	..
International	204.0	214.8	-2.1	..
American	146.7	154.5	-3.3	..
Japan	252.3	265.6	-5.8	..
European	204.3	215.1	+0.6	..
Pacific	251.6	265.1	-8.7	..
Technology	189.9	199.8	-1.5	..
Foreign Bd/Currency	152.9	161.0	-0.3	..
SCOTTISH LIFE INVESTMENTS 19 St Andrews Sq, Edinburgh EH2 1YE 031-225 2211				
Property	187.4	197.3		..
UK Equity	243.8	256.5●	+1.3	..
American	171.6	180.9●	-4.1	..
Pacific	256.4	270.0●	-3.8	..
European	303.6	319.7	+1.2	..
International	213.8	225.1	-2.3	..
Fixed Interest	144.8	152.5	+0.7	..
Index Linked	147.6	155.5	+0.8	..
Deposit	138.4	145.8	+0.2	..
Managed	199.7	210.3	-0.4	..
Worldwide	103.9	109.5	-1.1	..
Pen Worldwide	105.4	111.0	-1.3	..
SCOTTISH MUTUAL ASSURANCE 109 St Vincent St, Glasgow G2 5HN 041-248 6321				
Flex Fund (35)	£12.14	12.61	..	..
SCOTTISH MUTUAL INVESTMENTS 109, St Vincent St, Glasgow 041-248 6321				
Safety Fund	157.5	165.8	+0.2	..
Growth Fund	171.7	180.8	-0.6	..
Opportunity Fund	174.3	183.5	-0.7	..
Cash Fund	126.6	133.3	+0.2	..
European Fund	260.1	273.8	+1.1	..
Gilts & Fxd Int Fund	127.6	134.4	+0.7	..
Index-Linked Fund	129.7	136.6	+0.4	..
International Fund	212.9	224.2	-3.2	..
North American Fd	155.5	163.7	-3.3	..
Property Fund	135.7	142.9	..	..
UK Equity	182.8	192.5	-0.1	..
UK Smaller	202.3	213.0	-0.3	..
SCOTTISH PROVIDENT 6 St Andrews Sq Edinburgh EH2 2YA 031-556 9181				
Mixed	196.2	206.6	-0.1	..
Equity	195.1	205.5	+1.1	..
International	226.7	238.7	-3.6	..
Property	239.8	252.5	..	..
Fixed Interest	144.1	151.8	+1.4	..
Index Linked	130.8	137.6	+1.3	..
Cash	138.7	146.4	+0.4	..
SCOTTISH WIDOWS PO Box 902, Edinburgh EH16 5BU 031-655 6000				
Inv Pol 1		696.0	+0.7	..
Inv Pol 2	639.1	672.6	+0.7	..
Inv Pol 3	617.3	649.8	+0.7	..
Inv Cash	222.8	234.6	+0.4	..
Mixed Fund	348.7	367.2	+0.2	..
Equity Fund	412.2	434.0	-3.0	..
Property Fund	235.1	248.6	+0.1	..
International Fund	357.3	376.3	-4.5	..
Fixed Interest Fund	224.2	236.1	+1.6	..
Indexed Stock Fund	143.9	151.6	+1.1	..
Cash Fund	162.4	171.1	+0.2	..
SKANDIA LIFE Frobisher Hse, Nelsons Gate, Southampton SO9 7BX 0703 334411				
Managed Accum	279.3	293.9	-0.2	..
Equity Accum	325.8	342.9	+0.3	..
International Accum	280.7	295.4	-2.7	..
Property	214.1	225.3	+0.5	..
Royal Trust Mngd	183.9	193.5	-1.8	..
Britannia Mngd	151.7	159.6	-0.9	..
Framlington Mngd	173.5	182.6	-1.6	..
Gartmore Mngd	191.7	201.7	-1.3	..
Henderson Mngd	189.5	199.4	-0.7	..
TSB Managed	160.5	168.9	-0.9	..
North European	265.8	279.7	-1.5	..
Pacific	221.6	233.2	-0.5	..
Intl Recovery	191.5	201.5	-1.4	..
Gilt Plus Accum	208.0	218.9	+2.4	..
North American	138.8	146.1	-3.2	..
Deposit	193.4	203.5	+0.3	..
STANDARD LIFE ASSURANCE CO 3, George Street, Edinburgh EH2 2XZ 031-225-2552				
Cash	195.5	205.8	+0.3	..
Equity	673.8	709.4	+2.5	..
European	123.6	130.2	-0.7	..
Far East	152.0	160.0	-2.4	..
Fixed Interest	252.7	266.1	+2.3	..
Index Linked	150.1	158.0	+0.5	..
International	476.3	501.4	-8.2	..
Managed	489.4	515.2	-0.5	..
Nth American	100.3	105.6	-2.6	..
Property	316.0	332.7	+0.2	..
Pension Funds				
Cash	276.3	290.9	+0.6	..
Equity	903.7	951.3	+2.1	..
European	123.6	130.2	-0.7	..
Far East	152.0	160.0	-2.4	..
Fixed Interest	316.3	333.0	+3.2	..
Index Linked	198.0	208.5	+0.6	..
International	644.0	677.9	-12.3	..
Managed	642.1	675.9	-1.2	..
Nth American	100.3	105.6	-2.6	..
Property	386.7	407.1	+0.5	..
Stock Exchange	143.0	150.6	-0.3	..
SUN ALLIANCE Sun Alliance Hse, Horsham, Sussex 0403 64141				
Managed Fund	475.9	501.0	-2.0	..
Equity Fund	641.7	675.5	+1.8	..
Fixed Interest Fund	284.6	299.6	+2.0	..
Index Linked Fund	225.3	237.2	+1.4	..
Property Fund	448.6	472.5	+2.3	..
International Fund	448.4	472.0	-10.1	..
N American Fund	142.2	149.7	-3.1	..
Far East Fund	218.0	229.5	+1.6	..
Deposit Fund	214.6	225.8	+0.2	..
International Bond		259.48	-1.19	..
Worldwide Bond				
Worldwide Fincl	98.1	103.3	-0.9	..
Worldwide Tech	102.3	107.7	-1.7	..
European	117.9	124.2	-0.8	..
SUN LIFE OF CANADA Basingview, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 2DZ Dealing:0256-841414				
Growth Account		£10.75	+0.15	..
Managed Account		682.9	+1.8	..
Equity Account		806.0	+3.9	..
Mngd Fund Accum	274.9	289.4	+0.9	..
Equity Fund Accum	361.7	380.8	+1.8	..
Prop Fund Accum	250.1	263.3	+0.2	..
Fixed Int Fd Acc	190.5	200.5	+2.3	..
Intl Fund Accum	357.9	376.8	-2.6	..
Money Fund Accum	159.9	168.3	+0.3	..
Index-Lnkd Scs Acc	154.2	162.4	+2.3	..
Pens Pens Account		211.997	+0.01	..
Pens Mngd Account	558.2	587.6	+0.6	..
Pens Guarantee	154.8	163.0	+0.4	..
Pens Equity	213.9	225.2	+0.3	..
Pens Property	217.6	229.1	+0.3	..
Pens Fixed Int	180.2	189.6	+1.2	..
Pens Intl	168.5	177.2	-0.7	..
Pens Money	154.4	162.5	+0.4	..
Pens Indx-Lnkd	139.2	146.5	+1.1	..
SUN LIFE UNIT St James Barton, Bristol BS99 7SL 0272 426911				
Managed Accum	596.8	627.7	+4.1	..
Property Accum	353.1	371.7	-1.0	..
Equity Accum	891.7	938.7	+13.7	..
Fixed Int Accum	246.6	259.6	+2.1	..
Index-Linked Accum	140.7	148.2	+1.1	..
Cash Accum	224.1	235.9	+0.3	..
Amer Equity Accum	242.2	255.0	-4.8	..
US Bonds Accum	147.1	154.9	+0.8	..
Japan Accum	343.4	361.5	-2.9	..
Pacific Accum	187.0	196.8	+5.6	..
Far Eastern Accum	550.9	579.9	+7.3	..
International Accum	390.7	411.3	-4.3	..
US Dollar Accum	84.4	88.4	+0.1	..
Yen Accum	126.2	132.9	-0.1	..
Euro Cur Accum	130.4	137.3	-0.6	..
Distribution Fund	229.6	241.9	+0.6	7.61
European	134.9	142.0	-1.8	..
TSB LIFE LTD Keens House, Andover, Hants, SP10 1PG 0264 56789				
Managed Fund	201.9	212.7	-0.7	..
Property Fund	171.6	180.9	+0.3	..
Fixed Interest Fund	147.6	155.6	+0.9	..
Money Fund	145.1	152.9	+0.2	..
Equity Fund	268.1	282.3	-1.6	..
TARGET LIFE Target House, Gatehouse Road, Aylesbury Bucks Aylesbury (0296) 394000				
American Eagle	119.2	125.5	-2.5	..
Australian	30.9	32.6	+0.8	..
Commodity	121.7	128.2	..	..
Deposit	187.2	197.1	+0.3	..
Residential Prop	91.2	95.9	+0.2	..
Financial	209.6	220.7	-0.5	..
Fixed Interest	225.6	237.5	+1.3	..
Gold	86.5	91.1	-0.8	..
Income	259.3	273.0	-0.7	..
International Equity	319.0	335.8	-2.7	..
Japan	458.6	482.8	-6.5	..
Managed	476.4	501.5	+6.8	..
International Bond	91.9	96.8●	-1.7	..
Managed Prop	142.0	149.5	..	..
Pacific	209.0	220.0	..	..
Preference	193.4	203.6	..	..
Property	341.2	359.5	-0.1	..
Sterling		10.8	+1.9	..
UK Cap	175.4	184.7	-0.4	..
UK Cap Pen			..	..
World Income	194.3	204.6	-1.8	..
Euro Situations	199.5	210.2	-1.2	..
TYNDALL ASSURANCE 401, St John Street, 8 London EC1V 4QE 01-837 6494				
3-Way Fund	437.7	437.7	-0.47	..
UK Equity	278.8	293.5	-1.64	..
N American Equity	199.6	210.1	-4.79	..
Far East Equity	374.4	394.2	-3.01	..
Fixed	192.0	202.1	+1.91	..
Cash Deposit	149.0	156.8	+0.20	..
Property	127.9	134.6	+1.17	..
Special Opp	296.5	312.1	+0.95	..
Managed	248.2	261.3	-1.44	..
Index-Linked Fd	145.0	152.7	+1.89	..
Star Mngd 2	282.2	297.1	-3.54	..
Star Mngd 3	272.1	286.4	-4.18	..
Star Mngd 4	239.3	251.9	-3.25	..
Star Mngd 5	271.0	285.2	-3.41	..

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

	Bid	Offer	Chng	Yld
ABBEY UNIT TRUST MANAGERS 80, Holdenhurst Rd, Bournemouth BH8 8AL Tel: 0345 717373 (Linkline)				
Gilt/Fixed	108.2	114.8	+0.5	8.71
High Inc Equity	138.6	146.1	+0.1	4.35
W'wide Bond	207.9	220.3	-0.6	4.81
Amer Growth	197.4	210.1	-1.2	1.04
Asian Pacific	125.4	133.5	+1.5	0.97
Assets/Earns	157.0	168.0	-0.1	2.80
Capit Res	88.78	89.94	+0.21	6.76
Comm/Energy	118.5	126.8	-2.4	1.50
Euro Capit	101.8	108.3	+0.8	0.70
General	179.4	191.5	-0.7	2.61
Japan	127.4	135.6	-2.0	0.00
UK Gth Inc	117.9	125.1	+0.1	2.52
Do Acc	178.4	190.9	-0.1	1.87
US Emerg Cos	54.18	57.84	-0.19	0.00
Income/Gth	306.8	328.2	-0.3	3.12
Masterfst Acc	83.15	88.83	-0.26	1.71
Amer Inc	54.79	58.29	-0.26	4.70
Ethical	47.42	50.72	+0.03	1.97
ABTRUST MANAGEMENT LTD 10, Queens Terrace, Aberdeen AB9 1QJ Tel: 0224 633070 dealing (Freephone) 0800 833580; 30, Finsbury Circus, London EC2M 7QQ Tel: 01-374 6891				
Am Inc/Gth	33.16	35.40	-0.24	3.03
Euro	78.94	85.34	+0.34	0.00
Euro Inc	76.48	81.85	+0.11	2.07
Exempt	782.5	813.6	-0.2	1.62
Extra Inc	44.09	47.07	+0.04	4.33
F/E Emerg Co	65.14	69.77	-0.22	0.07
Invest	136.0	145.2	-0.2	1.65
Do Acc	213.2	227.5	-0.5	1.68
Gt/Fxd Interest	20.28	21.85	-0.02	11.41
Inc Growth	72.54	77.44	+0.07	3.59
Intl Inc	67.31	71.85	-0.24	4.47
Jap & Genrl	216.6	231.2	-3.3	0.00
Pacific	46.87	50.18	..	0.07
Secure Inc	197.7	211.0	-0.4	5.54
Smlr Cos	54.02	57.68	+0.02	2.18
Spec Sits	70.09	74.82	+0.02	0.92
UK Growth	37.78	40.34	-0.04	2.00
World Gth	57.00	60.85	-0.33	0.00
ALLIED DUNBAR UNIT TRUSTS Allied Dunbar Centre, Swindon SN1 1EL Tel: 0793 514514 dealing 0793 610366				
High Inc	355.0	378.0	..	4.15
Equity Inc	197.4	210.2	+0.6	4.85
High Yield	208.2	221.7	..	4.85
Balanced	494.3	526.4	-0.6	3.09
Am Inc	35.86	38.04	+0.02	2.65
World Ass Val	37.11	39.52	-0.17	0.98
Japan	182.9	194.5	-2.1	0.01
Sec of Am	255.8	272.2	-1.1	0.32
Asset Value	385.3	410.3	-0.1	2.80
O'seas Earn	258.2	274.8	-0.6	2.95
Recov	112.0	119.2	+0.1	2.11
UK Spec Sits	298.0	317.3	+1.9	2.54
Smlr Cos	168.9	179.8	+0.5	2.33
Capit	294.6	313.7	-0.5	2.30
Am Spec Sit	84.19	89.65	+0.09	1.53
Intl	113.8	121.1	-0.4	0.73
Growth/Inc	175.6	187.0	-0.2	3.61
Euro Gth	26.07	27.76	+0.19	1.04
Pacific	300.1	319.8	-3.3	0.08
2nd Smlr Co	167.2	178.0	..	1.81
BARCLAYS UNICORN Unicorn House, 252, Romford Rd E7 Tel: 01-534 5544				
Capit	92.87	99.17	+0.08	3.41
Euro Gth Inc	99.94	106.6	+0.68	1.15
Extra Inc	103.9	110.8	+0.1	5.54
General	197.1	210.2	+0.1	3.53
Gt/Fxd Income	48.78	51.45	+0.05	10.53
Inc Trust	458.8	490.5	-0.1	4.66
BARING FUND MANAGERS PO Box 156, Beckenham, Kent BR3 4XQ Tel: 01-658 9002				
Am Sm Cos	56.96	60.43	-0.28	1.10
Australia	70.54	76.03	-0.79	1.50
Convertible	48.96	51.94	-0.06	7.20
East	133.1	141.9	+0.2	1.20
Equity Inc	77.04	81.74	-0.02	6.50
Euro Gth	189.8	201.1	+1.8	1.40
Euro Smlr Cos	186.2	199.5	+0.3	0.30
Exempt	66.86	70.28	..	3.50
Growth/Inc	81.85	95.18	+0.24	2.70
Do Acc	148.2	153.5	-0.4	2.70
Global Gth	77.36	82.07	-0.18	0.10
Jap Spec	198.2	208.7	-2.5	0.00
Jap Sunrise	181.3	192.8	-1.7	0.00
1st N Am	57.31	60.80	-0.08	1.70
UK Growth	65.85	70.71	-0.15	2.90
UK Smlr Cos	88.85	94.27	+0.18	2.20
Select Man Fd	56.57	60.02	-0.04	1.00
BROWN SHIPLEY 9-17, Perrymount Rd, Haywards Heath Tel: 0444 458144				
Financial	151.1	161.7	+0.9	3.94
Smlr Cos Acc	289.5	311.5	+1.1	0.90
Do Inc	180.0	193.5	+0.8	1.26
High Inc	85.11	91.07	+0.49	3.80
Income	108.0	115.6	..	5.34
Man Portf Inc	91.26	97.67	+0.01	2.84
Do Acc	159.3	170.5	..	2.20
Nth Amer	64.36	68.89	-0.48	0.38
Orient	137.5	147.1	-1.2	0.38
Exempt	300.0	318.3	-0.1	2.78
Recov	58.91	63.03	+0.23	3.80
German	38.83	39.47	+0.43	0.60
Intl Recov	31.64	33.85	-0.10	2.89
Europe	22.90	24.68	+0.13	2.40
Conv Genrl	23.10	24.72	-0.09	7.80
BUCKMASTER MANAGEMENT First Floor 80 Cannon St London EC4N 6HH Tel: 01-588 2868 01-929 5318 Fax 01 283 0407				
Emer Gth Inc	61.53	65.33	+0.02	2.71
Do Acc	62.96	66.81	+0.07	2.71
Fellowship Inc	64.36	68.26	-0.31	2.49
Genrl Inc 4	298.2	314.6	-1.0	3.15
Do Acc 4	508.1	539.1	-1.4	3.15
Inc Fund 3	163.1	173.1	-0.2	4.83
Do Acc 3	323.4	343.1	-0.4	4.83
Intl Inc 2	118.2	122.9	+1.3	1.00
Do Acc 2	159.9	169.1	+1.8	1.00
Smlr Inc 5	104.1	110.5	-0.1	2.26
Do Acc	115.6	122.6	-0.1	2.26
BURRAGE UNIT TRUST MANAGEMENT LTD 117 Fenchurch Street London EC3M 5AL Tel: 01-488 7216				
Sht Gt Fxd Inc	55.26	56.06	+0.03	2.81
CANNON FUND MANAGERS 1, Olympic Way, Wembley Middx HA9 0NB Tel: 01-902 8876				
Growth	38.77	41.47	+0.29	2.47
Income	48.85	53.10	+0.27	3.92
Far East	42.37	45.07	-0.27	0.05
Nth Amer	38.18	40.84	-0.01	1.76
Global	58.25	61.97	-0.05	1.58
European	67.07	71.73	+0.36	0.75
Japan	121.9	129.7	-1.2	0.01
Strategic Opp	51.68	55.25	+0.28	1.32
Do Acc	54.8	58.2	..	5.25
Intl Currency	45.17	47.88	-0.10	6.27

	Bid	Offer	Chng	Yld
CAPABILITY TRUST MANAGERS LTD 5 Rayleigh Road, Hutton, Brentwood, Essex Tel: Enquiries: 0277 227300 Dealing: 0277 261010				
Am & Gen	82.26	87.51	-1.19	1.42
Do Acc	86.30	91.81	-1.24	1.42
European	66.42	70.66	+0.25	0.91
Do Acc	67.86	71.98	+0.26	0.91
F East/Gen	72.32	76.94	-0.76	0.00
Do Acc	72.32	76.94	-0.76	0.00
Gemini	255.1	271.3	-1.2	1.93
Do Acc	268.4	285.5	-1.2	1.93
Growth	267.5	284.6	-0.4	3.18
Do Acc	416.0	442.6	-0.7	3.18
Inc &Gth Inc	332.9	354.1	+1.9	4.17
Do Acc	379.4	403.6	+2.1	4.17
Master Portf	226.81	99.75	-0.11	3.22
Do Acc	132.27	95.62	-0.12	2.92
Spec Sits	63.09	67.12	-0.22	2.93
Do Acc	66.80	71.06	-0.23	2.93
[illegible]				

[Remaining unit trust columns (Capel (James) Management, Cazenove, Central Board of Finance of Church of England, Charities Official Investment Fund, Chase Manhattan, Cigna, Clerical Medical, Commercial Union, Crown, EPM, Eagle Star, Endurance, Equitable, Equity & Law, FS Investment, Fidelity, Foreign & Colonial, Framlington, Friends Provident, GT, Gartmore, Govett, GRE, Guinness Mahon, Hambros, Henderson, Hill Samuel, IBI, Key, Kleinwort Benson, LAS, Legal & General, Lloyds Bank, London & Manchester, M & G, MIM Britannia, MLA, Marks & Spencer, Martin Currie, Mercury, Midland, Morgan Grenfell, Murray Johnstone, N M (Rothschild), Pearl, Perpetual, Prolific, Prudential Holborn, Royal Trust, Save & Prosper, Schroder, Scottish Amicable, Scottish Life, Scottish Mutual, Scottish Provident, Standard Life, Stewart Ivory, Sun Alliance, Sun Life of Canada, TSB, Target, Thornton, Touche Remnant, United Charities, Wardley, Waverley, Wellington, Whittingdale, Windsor): [illegible]]

The prices in this section refer to Thursday's trading

● Ex dividend. c Cum dividend. k Cum stock split. s Ex stock split. m Cum all (any two or more of above). a Ex all (any two or more of above). Dealing or valuation days: (1) Monday. (2) Tuesday. (3) Wednesday. (4) Thursday. (5) Friday.

UNLISTED SECURITIES

1989 High	Low	Company	Bid	Offer	Ch'nge	Gross div p	Yld %	P/E
150	78	ASD	75	80	..	4.4	5.6	8.2
60	48	ATA Selection	58	63	..	3.1	5.1	13.8
[illegible]								

● Ex dividend a Ex all b Forecast dividend e Interim payment passed f Price at suspension g Dividend and yield exclude a special payment k Pre-merger figures n Forecast earnings o Ex other r Ex rights s Ex scrip or share split t Tax-free .. No significant data.

THIRD MARKET

1989 High	Low	Company	Bid	Offer	Ch'nge	Gross div p	Yld %	P/E
100	74	ASB Bassett	76	77	..	1.3	1.8	15.4
[illegible]								

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

1989 High	Low	Company	Bid	Offer	Ch'nge	Gross div p	Yld %	P/E
[illegible]								

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Exchange index compared with 1985 was same at 86.9 (day's range 86.8-87.0).

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Market rates for December 22

	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
New Yrk	1.6130-1.6250	1.6230-1.6250	0.89-0.87pr	2.50-2.47pr
Montrl	1.8687-1.8842	1.8786-1.8842	0.47-0.36pr	0.88-0.75pr
Amstrdm	3.1337-3.1389	3.1227-3.1289	1⅞-1⅝pr	4⅜-4⅛pr
Brussels	58.02-58.50	58.10-58.50	30-21pr	73-62pr
Copnhgn	10.7759-10.8250	10.7930-10.8225	3⅜-2⅝pr	7⅝-6⅝pr
Dublin	1.0526-1.0562	1.0537-1.0547	41-32pr	99-75pr
Frankft	2.7672-2.7826	2.7672-2.7739	1⅞-1⅝pr	4⅝-4⅛pr
Lisbon	243.35-244.56	243.45-244.56	34-120ds	171-425ds
Madrid	178.61-179.89	179.18-179.89	10-29ds	58-79ds
Milan	2069.42-2079.19	2071.76-2079.19	5-2pr	11-7pr
Oslo	10.6974-10.7534	10.7240-10.7534	2⅛-1⅞pr	6⅝-6pr
Paris	9.4590-9.4951	9.4702-9.4951	3⅝-3⅜pr	9⅝-8⅝pr
Stckhlm	10.0589-10.1319	10.1092-10.1319	3⅝-2⅝pr	6⅞-6pr
Tokyo	231.32-232.29	231.76-232.29	1⅞-1⅝pr	4⅝-4⅜pr
Vienna	19.49-19.61	19.55-19.61	9⅞-8pr	26⅞-24⅞pr
Zurich	2.5055-2.5131	2.5067-2.5131	1⅞-1⅝pr	3⅝-3⅜pr

Premium = pr. Discount = ds.

OTHER STERLING RATES

Argentina austral*	1609.75-1626.50
Australia dollar	2.0506-2.0559
Bahrain dinar	0.6040-0.6120
Brazil cruzado*	15.437-15.534
Cyprus pound	0.7675-0.7775
Finland marka	6.5540-6.6210
Greece drachma	255.15-258.35
Hong Kong dollar	12.639-12.659
India rupee	27.12-27.42
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4720-0.4780
Malaysia ringgit	4.3660-4.3784
Mexico peso	4290-4390
New Zealand dollar	2.7118-2.7198
Saudi Arabia riyal	6.0015-6.0695
Singapore dollar	3.0777-3.0864
S Africa rand (fin)	5.7921-5.9652
S Africa rand (com)	4.1122-4.1417
U A E dirham	5.8775-5.9575

*Lloyds Bank. Rates supplied by Extel and Barclays Bank GTS

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Ireland	1.5870-1.5885	Denmark	6.6560-6.6610	Italy	1281.0-1283.0
Singapore	1.9010-1.9040	W Germany	1.7040-1.7050	Belgium (Com)	35.95-36.10
Malaysia	2.6980-2.7010	Switzerland	1.5470-1.5500	Hong Kong	7.8070-7.8085
Australia	1.2666-1.2682	Netherlands	1.9270-1.9300	Portugal	150.30-150.50
Canada	1.1580-1.1590	France	5.8400-5.8450	Spain	110.30-110.50
Sweden	6.2320-6.2370	Japan	143.00-143.15	Austria	12.05-12.07
Norway	6.6220-6.6270				

Rates supplied by Barclays Bank GTS and Extel.

MONEY MARKETS

Base Rates %: Clearing Banks 15 Finance Hse 15½
Discount Market Loans %
Overnight High: 14¾ Low 4 Week fixed: 14¾
Treasury Bills (Discount %)
Buying: 2 mth — 14$^{11}_{16}$ 3 mth — 14¾
Selling: 2 mth — 14¾ 3 mth — 14$^{25}_{32}$
Prime Bank Bills (Discount %): 1 mth: 14¾-14$^{23}_{32}$ 2 mth: 14$^{23}_{32}$-14¾ 3 mth: 14$^{17}_{32}$-14¾ 6 mth 13$^{15}_{16}$-⅞
Trade Bills (Discount %): 1 mth: 15⅞ 2 mth: 15$^{11}_{32}$ 3 mth: 15$^{9}_{32}$ 6 mth 14$^{9}_{16}$
Interbank (%). Overnight: open 15 close 3
1 week: 15-14¾ 1 mth: 15$^{1}_{16}$-15 3 mth: 15$^{1}_{16}$-15
6 mth: 14$^{15}_{16}$-⅞ 9 mth: 14¾-14¾ 12 mth: 14¾-14½
Local Authority Deposits (%)
2 day: 14¾ 7 day: 15 1 mth: 15
3 mth: 15 6 mth: 14¾ 12 mth: 14¾
Sterling CDs (%): 1 mth: 15$^{1}_{16}$-14$^{15}_{16}$ 3 mth: 15$^{1}_{32}$-$^{7}_{32}$ 6 mth: 14$^{27}_{32}$-¾ 12 mth 14$^{7}_{16}$-$^{5}_{16}$
Dollar CDs (%): 1 mth: 8.70-8.65 3 mth: 8.35-8.30 6 mth: 8.15-8.10 12 mth 8.00-7.95
Building Society CDs (%): 1 mth: 15$^{1}_{16}$-14¾ 2 mth: 15⅛-15 3 mth: 15⅛-15 6 mth: 14$^{15}_{16}$-14¾ 9 mth: 14$^{11}_{16}$-$^{9}_{16}$ 12 mth: 14⅝-14½

TREASURY BILLS

Applcts: £1,392m allotted: £300m
Bids: £96.39% received: 27%
Last week: £96.385% received: 38%
Avge rate: £14.4672 last wk £14.4838
Next week: £300m replace £n/a

EURO MONEY DEPOSITS %

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth
Dollar:	9⅜-9	8$^{11}_{16}$-8$^{9}_{16}$	8$^{7}_{16}$-8$^{5}_{16}$	8⅜-8¼
Call: 8¼-7¾				
Deutschemark:	8⅜-8¼	8$^{5}_{16}$-8$^{1}_{16}$	8⅜-8¼	8$^{5}_{16}$-8$^{3}_{16}$
Call: 7⅞-6⅞				
French Franc:	10⅜-10⅛	10$^{13}_{16}$-¾	11-10⅞	11-10⅞
Call: 10-9				
Swiss Franc:	9⅜-8⅞	9-8⅞	8⅞-8¾	8⅞-8¾
Call: 7⅞-6½				
Yen:	6⅜-6¼	7$^{1}_{16}$-6$^{15}_{16}$	7$^{1}_{16}$-6$^{15}_{16}$	7$^{1}_{16}$-6$^{15}_{16}$
Call: 6-5				

GOLD

BULLION: Per ounce
Open: $413.00-413.50 Close: $413.00-413.50
High: $413.25-413.75 Low: $412.75-413.25

COINS: Per coin (Ex VAT)
Britannia: $422.00-427.00 (£261.00-264.00)
Krugerrand: $412.00-414.00 (£255.50-257.50)
Mapleleaf (1oz): $422.00-427.00 (£261.00-264.00)
American Eagles: $422.00-427.00 (£261.00-264.00)
New Sovereigns: $97.00-99.00 (£60.00-61.00)
Old Sovereigns: $97.00-99.00 (£60.00-61.00)
Platinum: $509.50 (£315.00)
Palladium: $136.50 (£84.40)
Silver: $5.57-5.59 (£3.460-3.475)

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Open	High	Low	Close	Vol
FT-SE 100			Previous open interest 31918		
Dec 89	2360.0	2372.0	2360.0	2364.5	668
Mar 90	2408.0	2422.0	2408.0	2414.5	355
Three Month Sterling			Previous open interest 110054		
Mar 90	85.62	85.64	85.60	85.60	3334
Jun 90	86.53	86.54	86.51	86.51	386
Three Month Eurodollar			Previous open interest 29417		
Mar 90	92.18	92.20	92.12	92.14	2101
Jun 90	92.40	92.42	92.34	92.36	449
Three Month Euro DM			Previous open interest 20921		
Mar 90	91.82	91.82	91.79	91.80	1441
Jun 90	91.93	91.93	91.90	91.92	243
Three month ECU			Previous open interest 911		
Mar 90	89.23	89.23	89.22	89.22	135
Jun 90	89.53				0
US Treasury Bond			Previous open interest 2542		
Jun 90	99-20				0
Long Gilt			Previous open interest 32623		
Mar 90	93-03	93-06	92-31	93-03	1969
Japanese Govt Bond			Previous open interest 839		
Mar 90	102.80	102.79	102.60	102.76	77
German Govt Bond			Previous open interest 28251		
Mar 90	91.64	91.70	91.58	91.61	2258
Jun 90	91.80				0

COMMODITIES

ICIS-LOR Group

Crude oil prices were initially very strong thanks, in part, to snow storms in Houston, but dipped off at the close of the futures. Products followed the futures higher in limited pre-Christmas trade.

CRUDE OIL $/assessed ($/BBL FOB)

Brent Phys	20.50	+35
15 day Jan	20.40	+30
15 day Feb	19.70	+20
WTI Jan	21.35	+15
WTI Feb	20.70	+10

PRODUCTS Buy/sell $/MT. Spot CIF NW Euro - prompt delivery

Prem Gas .15	+2	197-199	+2
Gasoil EEC	+3	219-221	+3
Non 1H Jan	+2	214-215	+1
Non 1H Feb	+2	198-199	+2
3.5 Fuel Oil		100-102	
Naphtha	+1	170-172	+1

IPE FUTURES

GAS OIL AMT Futures
Jan	210.25-10.00
Feb	193.75-93.50
Mar	178.25-76.00
Apr	169.75 SLR
May	168.75-67.00
Jun	166.00-63.00
Jul	265.00-62.50
Vol	3132

BRENT AMT Futures
Feb	19.76-19.75
Mar	19.21-19.20
Vol	2591

BIFFEX

GNI Freight Futures Dry Cargo ($10/pt)
Dec 89 Hi 1648-1645 Low Close 1645
Jan 90 Hi 1664-1661 Low Close 1663
Apr 90 Hi 1689-1685 Low Close 1689
Jul 90 Hi — Low Close 1415
Vol 110 lots Open interest 5345
Dry cargo index 1586.0 -4.0

LONDON POTATO FUTURES (£/tonne)

Mth	Open	Close
Feb	147.0	146.5
Apr	206.9	207.5
May	230.9	231.8
Nov	100.0	100.0
		Vol 31

LONDON FOX

COCOA AMT Futures
Dec 635-634 Sep 668-667
Mar 627-625 Dec 692-687
May 636-635 Mar 712-707
Jul 651-648 Vol 4883

COFFEE AMT Futures
Jan 635-634 Sep 668-667
Mar 627-625 Nov 692-687
May 636-635 Jan 712-707
Jul 651-648 Vol 4883

SUGAR C Czarnikow
FOB Vol: 946
Mar 287.6-87.2 Oct 283.0-82.8
May 290.4-90.2 Dec 279.0-70.0
Aug 287.6-87.4 Mar 270.0-69.0

LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT close (£/t) Vol 163
Ja 114.20 Mr 118.00 My 121.40
Jn 123.00 Sp 106.10 Nv 109.40
BARLEY close (£/t) Vol 8
Ja 111.00 Mr 113.45 My 115.25
Sp 103.60 Nv 106.60 Ja 109.60

SOYABEAN AMT Futures
Feb 139.5-41.5 Aug 137.6-39.0
Apr 139.0-41.5 Oct 137.5-40.5
Jun 138.0-40.0 Dec 139.0-43.0
Vol 0

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

Official prices/volume previous day — Rudolf Wolff

(£/tonne)	Cash	3 month	Vol	Tone
Copper Gde A	1512.0-1514.0	1498.0-1499.0	537150	Brly Stdy
Lead	451.50-452.00	440.00-441.00	136950	Steadier
Zinc Hi Gde*	1410.0-1420.0	1320.0-1330.0	25175	Quiet
Zinc Spec Hi*	1510.0-1515.0	1335.0-1337.0	192700	Easier
Tin*	7010-7015	7145-7150	10125	Steadier
Aluminium Hi*	1626.0-1627.0	1625.0-1627.0	309700	Steadier
Nickel*	8650-8700	7950-7975	18468	Easier

† (Cents per Troy oz). * ($ per tonne)

LONDON MEAT FUTURES (£/kg)

Live Pig Contract
Mth	Open	Close
Feb	108.0	108.0
Apr	108.5	108.5
Jun	109.0	109.0
Aug	109.0	109.0

Live Cattle Contract
Mth	Open	Close
Jan	116.3	116.3
Feb	117.0	117.0
Apr	118.8	118.8

Vol Pig-0 Cattle-0

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

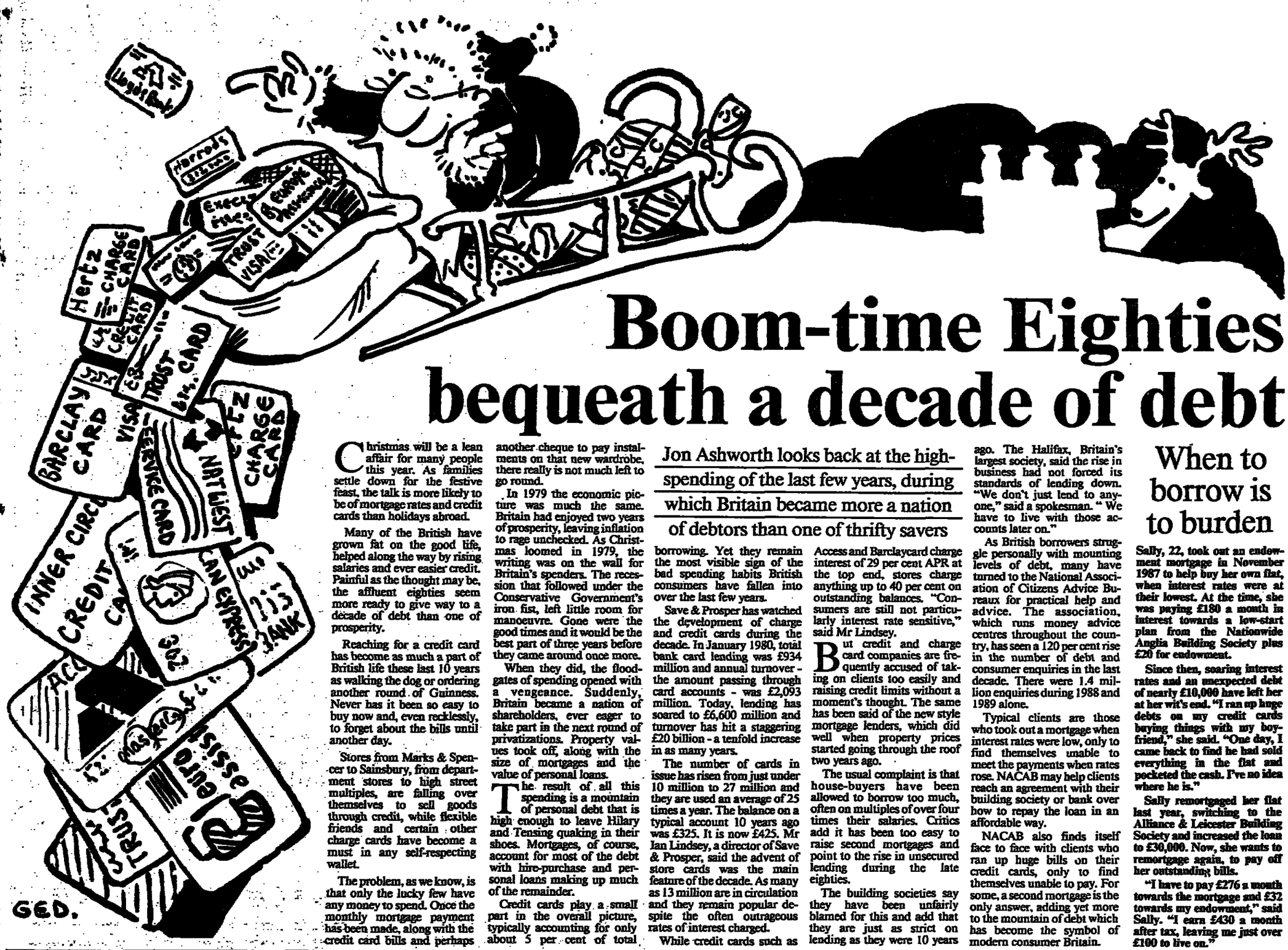
Av'ge fatstock prices at representative markets on December 21

	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB (p)	86.54	209.11	113.40
GB (+/-)	-3.79	+12.49	-2.23
Eng/Wal (%)	-80.8	-44.7	-89.9
Eng/Wal (p)	86.54	209.36	113.90
Eng/Wal (+/-)	-3.69	+11.31	-1.84
Scotland (%)	n/a	-76.1	-85.1
Scotland (p)	n/a	207.03	109.00
Scotland (+/-)	n/a	+15.38	-6.98

* Estimated dead carcase weight

FAMILY MONEY

Edited by Jon Ashworth



Boom-time Eighties bequeath a decade of debt

Jon Ashworth looks back at the high-spending of the last few years, during which Britain became more a nation of debtors than one of thrifty savers

Christmas will be a lean affair for many people this year. As families settle down for the festive feast, the talk is more likely to be of mortgage rates and credit cards than holidays abroad.

Many of the British have grown fat on the good life, helped along the way by rising salaries and ever easier credit. Painful as the thought may be, the affluent eighties seem more ready to give way to a decade of debt than one of prosperity.

Reaching for a credit card has become as much a part of British life these last 10 years as walking the dog or ordering another round of Guinness. Never has it been so easy to buy now and, even recklessly, to forget about the bills until another day.

Stores from Marks & Spencer to Sainsbury, from department stores to high street multiples, are falling over themselves to sell goods through credit, while flexible friends and certain other charge cards have become a must in any self-respecting wallet.

The problem, as we know, is that only the lucky few have any money to spend. Once the monthly mortgage payment has been made, along with the credit card bills and perhaps another cheque to pay instalments on that new wardrobe, there really is not much left to go round.

In 1979 the economic picture was much the same. Britain had enjoyed two years of prosperity, leaving inflation to rage unchecked. As Christmas loomed in 1979, the writing was on the wall for Britain's spenders. The recession that followed under the Conservative Government's iron fist, left little room for manoeuvre. Gone were the good times and it would be the best part of three years before they came around once more.

When they did, the floodgates of spending opened with a vengeance. Suddenly, Britain became a nation of shareholders, ever eager to take part in the next round of privatizations. Property values took off, along with the size of mortgages and the value of personal loans.

The result of all this spending is a mountain of personal debt that is high enough to leave Hilary and Tensing quaking in their shoes. Mortgages, of course, account for most of the debt with hire-purchase and personal loans making up much of the remainder.

Credit cards play a small part in the overall picture, typically accounting for only about 5 per cent of total borrowing. Yet they remain the most visible sign of the bad spending habits British consumers have fallen into over the last few years.

Save & Prosper has watched the development of charge and credit cards during the decade. In January 1980, total bank card lending was £934 million and annual turnover - the amount passing through card accounts - was £2,093 million. Today, lending has soared to £6,600 million and turnover has hit a staggering £20 billion - a tenfold increase in as many years.

The number of cards in issue has risen from just under 10 million to 27 million and they are used an average of 25 times a year. The balance on a typical account 10 years ago was £325. It is now £425. Mr Ian Lindsey, a director of Save & Prosper, said the advent of store cards was the main feature of the decade. As many as 13 million are in circulation and they remain popular despite the often outrageous rates of interest charged.

While credit cards such as Access and Barclaycard charge interest of 29 per cent APR at the top end, stores charge anything up to 40 per cent on outstanding balances. "Consumers are still not particularly interest rate sensitive," said Mr Lindsey.

But credit and charge card companies are frequently accused of taking on clients too easily and raising credit limits without a moment's thought. The same has been said of the new style mortgage lenders, which did well when property prices started going through the roof two years ago.

The usual complaint is that house-buyers have been allowed to borrow too much, often on multiples of over four times their salaries. Critics add it has been too easy to raise second mortgages and point to the rise in unsecured lending during the late eighties.

The building societies say they have been unfairly blamed for this and add that they are just as strict on lending as they were 10 years ago. The Halifax, Britain's largest society, said the rise in business had not forced its standards of lending down. "We don't just lend to anyone," said a spokesman. "We have to live with those accounts later on."

As British borrowers struggle personally with mounting levels of debt, many have turned to the National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux for practical help and advice. The association, which runs money advice centres throughout the country, has seen a 120 per cent rise in the number of debt and consumer enquiries in the last decade. There were 1.4 million enquiries during 1988 and 1989 alone.

Typical clients are those who took out a mortgage when interest rates were low, only to find themselves unable to meet the payments when rates rose. NACAB may help clients reach an agreement with their building society or bank over how to repay the loan in an affordable way.

NACAB also finds itself face to face with clients who ran up huge bills on their credit cards, only to find themselves unable to pay. For some, a second mortgage is the only answer, adding yet more to the mountain of debt which has become the symbol of modern consumer Britain.

When to borrow is to burden

Sally, 22, took out an endowment mortgage in November 1987 to help buy her own flat, when interest rates were at their lowest. At the time, she was paying £180 a month in interest towards a low-start plan from the Nationwide Anglia Building Society plus £20 for endowment.

Since then, soaring interest rates and an unexpected debt of nearly £10,000 have left her at her wit's end. "I ran up huge debts on my credit cards buying things with my boyfriend," she said. "One day, I came back to find he had sold everything in the flat and pocketed the cash. I've no idea where he is."

Sally remortgaged her flat last year, switching to the Alliance & Leicester Building Society and increased the loan to £30,000. Now, she wants to remortgage again, to pay off her outstanding bills.

"I have to pay £276 a month towards the mortgage and £32 towards my endowment," said Sally. "I earn £430 a month after tax, leaving me just over £100 to live on."

Counting the cost of a peripatetic life for pets

Behind the old song "How much is that doggie in the window?" lie many other hidden costs especially when it comes to holidays.

The expenses of kennels or catteries soon mount up with one day's board costing around £3 per cat and £5 per dog. This may be unavoidable for trips abroad owing to quarantine laws, but for autumn or winter holidays at home it is often worth considering taking along Bimbo, Delilah or even the hamster.

Many hotels, guesthouses and inns in Britain, particularly in the short-break market, do cater for four-footed and feathered guests as long as they are accompanied by a responsible owner. Some establishments even go as far as providing bedding and meals — at a price.

Many accept dogs, cats, birds and small caged animals at no extra cost to the guest. Most allow pets in the bedrooms and offer use of kennels, baskets and feeding bowls. Where food is not supplied by the owner, a charge is usually made. Hotel charges for pets' accommodation is between 75p and £3 per animal per night.

The Langber Country Guesthouse in Ingleton, North Yorkshire allows dogs and small caged animals "other than rats, mice and snakes", in the rooms at rates of 50p for small dogs, medium-sized 75p and large £1. The three-star Carnarvon Arms in Dulverton, Somerset asks £3 per cat, dog or other pet. It also provides outside kennelling and stabling for horses but these need to be booked in advance.

Canine service is set by one, two and three-bone ratings with take-home bones, pooch picnics and walkies with hotel staff

A typical country guesthouse offering facilities for pets is the Wight Mouse Inn on the Isle of Wight. Most pets are welcome and dogs are charged at £2 per night. The catch here is the extra fare — dogs accompanying passengers without cars need a £2.80 return ferry ticket to reach the island though dogs in cars are not charged.

Ferries to the Isle of Scilly charge £2.50 return for a travelling pet, Isle of Man is free, Ireland £6 each way. Most of the Scottish island boats carry pets free of charge. Horses are usually free but a horse-box counts as a trailer and will be charged accordingly. Pets often travel free on trains and buses but dogs can be relegated to the guard's van if passengers complain.

Even pet-accompanied visits to London are not out of the question if you can bear lugging Lucy to the West End stores before a promised exercise round Hyde Park. The Marble Arch Holiday Inn, for instance, allows pets to stay in rooms free of charge and provides beds and bowls as well. The Pembridge Court Hotel in Paddington even extends a welcome to rabbits, though presumably not with an eye to the menu!

Many hotels in the Consort chain cater for pets as part of the Bona-Fido ratings group. Canine service standards are set by one, two and three-bone ratings with take-home bones, special pooch picnics and walkies by hotel staff.

Some London stores provide for the shopper-with-pet. Harrods offers free, supervised, fully carpeted porta-kennels or cages where animals may be left for short periods. Others accept dogs that are carried, or are on leads, so long as they are kept out of store restaurants or food halls.

Michael Sheldon

Insuring against failure to repay

Faced with uncomfortably high interest rates, high street banks and the British public are becoming increasingly anxious about a borrowers' ability to meet loan payments in the event of unforseen financial difficulties. The answer, for many, is an insurance policy against the risk of sickness, death or redundancy.

Lloyds Bank says 66 per cent of its personal loan customers now opt for insurance cover on loans, up from 60 per cent last year. Barclays and NatWest both say that loans are never made conditional on insurance coverage. However, some Lloyds customers say they have been pressured into buying the insurance as part of their loan package.

Miss Sarah Stevens, an insurance specialist at the Piccadilly branch of Lloyds, said: "Sometimes the manager will request that insurance be taken out in order for the loan to be granted." Lloyds head office however, insists this is contrary to bank policy. and says it will take action to ensure branch officers make it clear to customers that insurance is completely optional.

Loan "protection", as it is known, ensures that monthly payments are made during the period of work disability, without the need to pay any money back afterwards. The borrower resumes full responsibility for payment upon his or her return to their paid employment.

Insurance premiums depend on the length and size of the loan. Barclays asks for £66 annually to cover a £1,000 loan over 12 months. Lloyds charges ust £1 more for the same cover, but NatWest charges only £40.

Potential buyers of loan insurance should be wary though, of the fine print of the policies. Barclays policies, for instance, only cover redundancy where a job is lost "through no fault of your own", and then only if the borrower is unemployed for more than 14 days. Births, pregnancies and miscarriages are also excluded.

NatWest's Personal Loan Protector takes over repayments if policy holders are unable to work for more than 14 consecutive days, as a result of sickness or accident. Monthly repayments of up to £750 are covered, with an overall total of £20,000.

Victoria Griffith

PORTFOLIO PLATINUM

For readers who may have missed a copy of *The Times* this week, we repeat below the week's *Portfolio* price changes (today's are on page 14).

Stock	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Weekly Total
1	+3	+4	+2	+4	+3		
2	+6	+7	+3	+4	+4		
3	+4	+7	+5	+6	+3		
4	+2	+5	+2	+3	+4		
5	+3	+7	+5	+7	+3		
6	+7	+8	+2	+3	+3		
7	+5	+3	+4	+9	+5		
8	+2	+4	+2	+3	+3		
9	+5	+6	+6	+5	+2		
10	+5	+2	+4	+9	+5		
11	+4	+4	+4	+8	+5		
12	+4	+5	+5	+7	+2		
13	+3	+3	+5	+7	+6		
14	+7	+7	+2	+5	+4		
15	+3	+4	+1	+3	+3		
16	+3	+5	+5	+5	+1		
17	+3	+3	+2	+4	+5		
18	+3	+6	+6	+6	+3		
19	+7	+8	+3	+5	+3		
20	+3	+4	+3	+6	+3		
21	+4	+5	+4	+5	+1		
22	+5	+8	+3	+3	+2		
23	+3	+3	+5	+7	+5		
24	+5	+5	+2	+4	+2		
25	+2	+4	+2	+5	+5		
26	+4	+5	+5	+7	+2		
27	+5	+2	+5	+7	+5		
28	+6	+6	+4	+4	+3		
29	+2	+5	+1	+3	+4		
30	+5	+7	+2	+5	+2		
31	+5	+5	+4	+5	+2		
32	+5	+7	+4	+3	+2		
33	+4	+2	+3	+7	+7		
34	+3	+3	+1	+4	+3		
35	+1	+5	+2	+3	+5		
36	+4	+3	+4	+6	+7		
37	+6	+6	+4	+4	+3		
38	+3	+2	+3	+9	+5		
39	+4	+7	+5	+5	+1		
40	+4	+3	+3	+7	+5		
41	+4	+3	+3	+4	+4		
42	+5	+6	+6	+5	+2		
43	+3	+4	+3	+8	+8		
44	+8	+8	+3	+3	+4		

Water investors can deal at last

Most of the 2.7 million investors who applied for shares in the new water authorities should be able to deal when the markets re-open next week. The bulk of the interim certificates ought to have reached most homes today, even allowing for the Christmas rush.

Those who are ready to sell when the markets open on Wednesday can take their pick of dealing services.

Dealers will charge anything from £7 to £25 to trade in the shares, according to a review of the best deals by Debenhams Investment Services (DIS). Many will throw in a family package at no extra cost. The best deal of all is offered by Leeds Permanent Building Society, which will deal free for customers with at least £2,000 in a Liquid or Solid Gold account.

Families wishing to sell as a group should try Pilling & Co, the Manchester stockbroker, which charges a flat rate of £7. Waters Luniss will deal for £8, while Cawood, Smithie and Co, Debenhams Investment Services and the Skipton Building Society all charge £10.

Sharelink and Barclayshare charge £12.50, while Leeds stockbroker, Redmayne Bentley, is asking a minimum of £15. NatWest Brokers charge £17 or more, and Wise Speke and the National Investment Group charge a £25 minimum.

Debenhams stress that the special rates only apply to dealings in a single water authority. DIS is running a Water Helpline on 0898 500-507.

Holders of shares in Northumbrian Water could try Torrie & Co, the Edinburgh stockbrokers, who will deal at £5 a time. However, the rate only applies to investors who sell shares in at least two other authorities at the same time - for another £19. Tel 031-225 1766.

J.A.

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SHOPPING

Dizzo with success

An architect's designs for the 'bike of the future' look set to become the next craze

Dizzo, a new toy that is likely to enjoy a play pedigree as illustrious as those of Lego or Meccano, has come out tops as the best large toy in the annual awards organized by *What Toy* magazine, the consumer guide *(Nicole Swengley writes)*.

It took 10 years and some £850,000 before Dizzo reached the shops last June. On hearing of the award, the designer, Martin Disler, an architect, said: "This is confirmation of the belief we've had in the product since day one."

Every toy judged in the awards undergoes a rigorous three-month assessment by the National Toy Libraries Assessment Panel, which includes children, parents, toy libraries, teachers and therapists. Assessments include play value, durability, children's and parents' reactions, value-for-money, versatility, design and packaging, and presentation of manufacturers' instructions.

Dizzo as a tricycle: the master set makes six different toys

Little did Disler dream that a competition in *The Sunday Times Magazine* would lead to all this when he submitted a design for the "bike of the future" more than 10 years ago.

"I tried looking at bike design through a child's eye and came up with a tricycle which would convert into a wheelbarrow and toboggan," he says. "I shelved the sketches, but when I was moving office stumbled on them again and brought in an industrial designer, Fred Biaz, to help turn them into reality. I tried to sell the idea to the United States but had no luck, although everyone was very encouraging. I was convinced the project would work, because there was nothing like it in the market-place."

Disler spent nearly two years developing models in wood. By then he had given up his architectural practice and had run out of money. It cost a further £40,000 to make full-size prototypes, so he joined forces with a venture capitalist in 1987.

"We were on the brink of a deal with a company in California when the stock-market crashed and it pulled out. So I decided to manufacture it myself and visited 60 factories in the Far East before deciding that the injection moulding should be done in Southend and the blow moulding in Littlehampton, because I was determined that quality should be as high as possible.

"We've tested the toy with 200 children in different environments. They all love it and so do the shops. We're selling mainly in Britain and at the best outlets in Germany, Belgium, Holland, Japan and Australia at the moment. But next spring we'll be in the United States and Canada."

Dizzo — Disler's own nickname — is a robust, colourful toy with plastic components. The master set makes six toys from its 33 pieces and can be tackled by under-fives with parental help and by older children alone.

Its chief attractions are its colour and clever design. It is a tricycle, wheelbarrow, cart, pram, wagon and space mobile, all of which are lifesize and offer the traditional play value which should appeal to parents who question the wisdom of Rambo dolls and fantasy toys.

All parts are colour-coded. Yellow stands for mobility, blue for structure, red for security and green for direction. Only the axles are left black so children must work out for themselves which pieces fit where, following the clear instruction booklet.

Disler, who describes himself as a "prodigal uncle", as he has no children, has made safety a top priority. Cadmium has been removed from the red and yellow pigments and every fixing point has a fail-safe device. An extension kit is planned for next year and another for 1991. The first will utilize parts from the master set, building up into a system which makes 14 toys, including cranes, go-karts, robots and trucks.

"It's a traditional toy with a contemporary feel," Disler says. "It invites children to create something with their hands and minds. Modern living has removed considerable play potential. We used to make trucks of tomato crates on wheels. But where do you get tomato crates these days?"

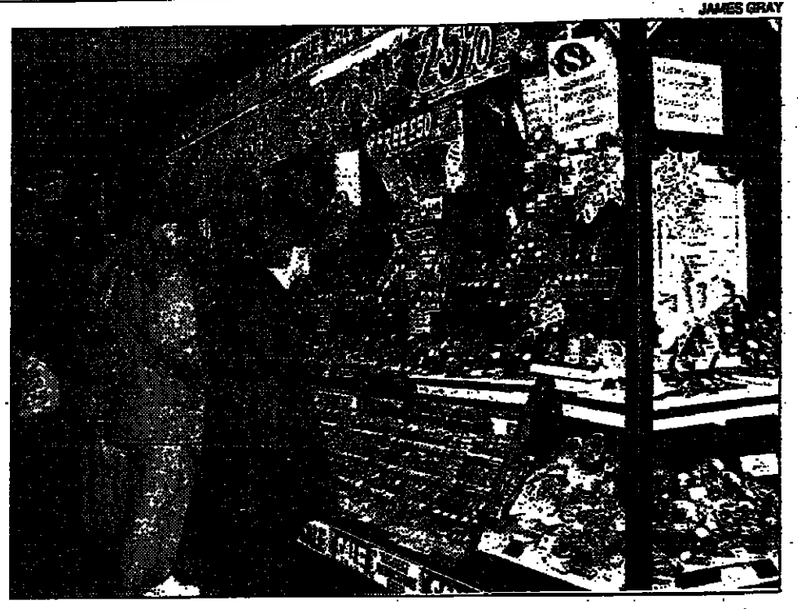
For Disler the project has been a design and marketing eye-opener. Even so, he says: "There's little difference between creating Dizzo and designing a building."

He is convinced that the £850,000 outlay will be recouped in a year. Only then will he feel free to return to his architectural practice.

● *Dizzo costs £89.95, and is available at Harrods, Hamleys, Selfridges and nationwide branches of the Early Learning Centre.*

Are Britain's High Street stores having a happy Christmas? Nicole Swengley shops around

JAMES GRAY


Cut-price Christmas shopping: many shops are starting their sales earlier to attract business

Where are all the crowds?

It was a nail-biting week for retailers, anxiously waiting for a last-minute rush to alleviate the gloom of the recent downturn in sales. Many have started their January sales early to attract shoppers whose spending capacity has been severely squeezed by high mortgage rates. Others have extended their opening times to up to 12 hours. But response has been mixed, even among those offering early cut-price bargains.

To test the climate, I joined the lunch-time throng around Oxford Street on Tuesday. I was surprised how empty many of the shops seemed, and the streets felt less crowded than in previous years.

Liberty's home ideas department is usually a crush of shoppers in the last few days before Christmas. This year I could move around with ease and although the new ceramics corner was generating considerable interest, there appeared to be more looking than purchasing.

My next stop was Marks & Spencer, where the lingerie department was packed with men looking for last-minute presents. A sales assistant commented on the rapid turnover of briefs, saying: "Knickers seem to have taken over where socks and hankies left off."

Drawn by the crowds window-shopping at Ratners jewellery store at Oxford Circus, I ventured inside. The shop's "Red Star Sale", offering a free £50 gift voucher with purchases exceeding £150, had been running for three weeks. Paul Ferreira, assistant manager, told me: "Everything is going well for us, although I have noticed many more purchases with cash than credit cards this year." H. Samuel, another jewellery chain in Oxford Street, whose windows were plastered with discount notices, was also very crowded.

At Debenhams, where the "Merry Savings" advertised in the window offered 20 to 25 per cent off selected purchases, traditional gift-buying departments, such as perfumery, were very busy. But, according to John Hoerner, chairman of Debenhams, the pre-Christmas offers are "not a reaction to the current economic climate. We have a tradition of making reductions on selected merchandise prior to Christmas. Response has been excellent and we have found that customers appreciate getting savings during a gift-giving season."

Fashion outlets with sales already in full swing included Hobbs in South Molton Street and Whistles in St Christopher's Place. Both shops were crowded with women taking advantage of early bargains. One shopper, Jane Robertson, a secretary from Fulham, west London, said: "I can't afford to shop at Hobbs normally so although I was only planning to buy Christmas presents today I couldn't resist getting something for myself."

But at Laura Ashley in Regent Street, racks of sweaters reduced by £10 were not attracting much attention while I was in the shop. A window-shopper, Sarah Green, a teacher from Hackney, east London, said: "I can't afford to take advantage of these reductions for myself. It's taking us all our time to cope with the mortgage, so I'm concentrating on buying presents for my kids."

Round the corner in Carnaby Street, Benetton's 40 per cent discount notices had tempted only two shoppers inside when I visited it at noon. Nor was Tie Rack, with its "Christmas Clearance" stickers, faring any better.

"It's taking us all our time to cope with the mortgage, so I'm really just buying presents for my kids"

I headed for New Bond Street, where at least 20 shops were already holding sales. Fashion retailer Savoy Taylors Guild started its sale on November 27, and its manager, Kirit Gudka, explained: "We always start the sale before Christmas, but this is the first time it has been so early. We knew people would be hard up after Christmas so we hoped to make a killing by starting it six weeks before Christmas this year." Despite assurances that the sale was going well, only one customer came into the shop during the 15 minutes I was there.

At men's outfitters Daniel Hechter, where the sale started on December 14, manager Jacques Simon said: "It seems to be a bit of a tradition in New Bond Street to have sales before Christmas. We find it makes a lot of difference, particularly in the men's department, where people take advantage of reductions to buy Christmas gifts like sweaters and shirts.

"Because of the economic climate, we decided to start the sale with 50 per cent reductions. We normally start at 30 per cent off and build up to 50 per cent about half-way through. It was a bit of a risk as far as stocks are concerned, but it really has made a big difference. Last Saturday was extremely busy, although it has been quieter this week."

A shopper, Caroline Gordon, a management consultant from Guildford, commented: "It's brilliant. I left all my present-buying until today and now I'm finding lots of things reduced. I'm really glad I didn't start earlier."

Elsewhere in the country, department stores are tending to stick to the traditional sales starting dates of December 26 or 27. At Beatties in Wolverhampton, the general manager, Tom Badlan, said: "There are no special reductions before Christmas. Gift purchasing started later than normal this year, but we were very busy last Saturday and on Monday and Tuesday, especially in the Christmas decorations department. Fingers crossed, it may not be too bad after all."

At Rackhams in Birmingham, the assistant store manager, Simon Carr, said: "It's going quite well in the traditional areas, like perfume and cosmetics, but there's no doubt that people are feeling the pinch this year. Even so, we didn't feel it was necessary to offer special enticements and our sale will start on December 27."

Jeff Johnson, the manager of Kendalls in Manchester, had his expectations realized this week when shoppers packed the store during Tuesday's late night shopping to 9pm. "A lot of competitors felt it was necessary to make reductions, but we've found the business has been there," he said. "It hasn't been as gloomy as everyone predicted, and it has been a healthy trading period for us right through December."

At the Merry Hill shopping centre in Dudley, which opened on November 14, a new Mini has been given away in a competition daily for 12 days until today. With High Street shops such as BHS, Littlewoods and C & A open until nine every night, trading is reported to have been brisk this week.

But free Minis may not be the only persuasions needed in the future, if the retail analysts have got it right. Their predictions of a backlash against the conspicuous consumption of the Eighties may well mean that shops have to move with the times if they want to attract the more discriminating shoppers of the Nineties.

SHOPAROUND Continued on Facing Page

HOME & GARDEN Continued on Facing Page

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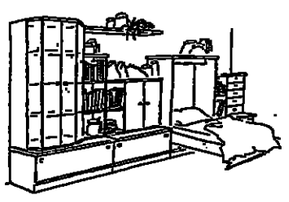

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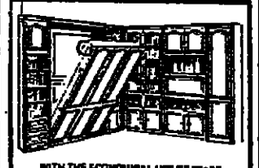

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MUSEUMS

Resurrecting the dead arts

The Museums and Galleries Commission plays an increasingly important role, Simon Tait reports

Professor Brian Morris has an impish way of picking the *bon mot*, or more often the *bon* quote, when he is talking about the Museums and Galleries Commission (MGC), of which he is chairman. "The importunate are never fortunate," he writes, borrowing from James Elroy Flecker to begin his introduction to the MGC's latest annual report. The report came out four months before the announcement of next year's arts budget, which gives the MGC a 51 per cent increase on this year's grant.

There is something lugubrious about the MGC, particularly as its secretary, Peter Longman, chooses to infer that when the first arts minister, Jennie Lee, talked about performing as the live arts, she meant that museums and galleries represented the dead arts. The commission plays a sort of straight man to its performing arts counterpart, the Arts Council.

There was a healthy rise for the Arts Council in the arts budget, too, but the MGC has been fortunate that because of its retiring nature, it hasn't attracted the criticism that the Arts Council has, does not get onto the news pages as soon as there is a minor policy shift, and is generally liked by its clients. And the MGC, 60 years old next year, is 15 years older.

Also, although it was set up with the national museums in mind, it does not, unlike the Arts Council, have the perilous job of funding the national flagships. The MGC's equivalents of the Royal Opera House and the National Theatre are the V & A and the British Museum, but they are funded directly by the Office of Arts and Libraries.

In 1930 the Standing Commission on Museums and Galleries was founded, but its role was vague: to keep an overview of the museums across the country, to advise the national museums, and to encourage them all to co-operate and attract more visitors, and to write reports from time to time.

And so it more or less remained, a small, dignified body, based in rather poky, but adequate rooms in Carlton House Terrace, and no power at all.

By the Eighties, however, museums had, quite suddenly in terms of their long history, become very much more than the glorified cabinets of curiosities that they had been; exciting itindependents such as Ironbridge were flourishing, local authorities were putting more money into their municipal collections, and nationals were attracting growing numbers of tourists with their temporary exhibitions. There are now about 2,500 non-national museums, in which the Government invests some £200 million a year.

So, in 1981, Paul Channon, then arts minister, gave the commission executive functions and a more business-like name to go with its role as a kind of statutory guide. He also gave the commission £72,000. Next year that figure will increase to £10 million.

"It raised our status and people's perception of the organization," Longman says. "The staff has gone up from three to 30, and the commissioners meet once a month instead of twice a year."

They have now moved to St James's Square, occupying three floors of a surprisingly recent addition to the parade, built by Lutyens in 1911.

Working within the organization are the likes of Helen Wilson, a tax expert who was behind many famous anonymous deals on behalf of the national collections — often to the surprise of the Treasury. She thought up the hybrid packages which combined acceptance in lieu of death duties, private treaty sales and grants to secure, against the market odds, Picasso's "Weeping Woman" for the Tate, Bellini's "Madonna and Child" for the Ashmolean, Gainsborough's "Lady Clarges" for the Holburne Museum in Bath and Henry Moore drawings for the British Museum.

Peter Longman, Museums and Galleries Commission secretary, with an art work by Jill Crowley

In another office is Dr David Lee, a conservator who last year gave up a flourishing private practice to set up a national advisory service on conservation, to advise museums and members of the public on where to go to get their works of art conserved.

And in another office is ex-Commander Bryan Dovey, once head of the diplomatic protection squad at Scotland Yard and now the national museums security adviser, whose job is to ensure the safety of the movable heritage in all our museums.

The MGC has recently started a touring exhibition service; it also co-ordinates and funds the Museum Documentation Association, which is largely behind the computerization of museums; it funds the area museums councils, which give museums advice and money; it runs the purchase aid funds to help local museums buy important pieces; and it has started giving grants for marketing and management projects. Sue Runyard is in charge of public relations, and is the only museums PRO to be elected a Member of the Institute of Marketing. Next year the MGC will take on the funding of the two orphans of the Greater London Council and the Inner London Education Authority, the Horniman and Geffrye museums.

Its reports have also taken on a new *gravitas*, and can influence policy. Two years ago the MGC's survey of national museums revealed the perilous state of the buildings, and their refurbishment and upkeep were written into Office of Arts and Libraries policy months before the National Audit Office brought it up; and the Hale Report on museum training, compiled by Professor Sir John Hale, a commissioner, resulted in the Government setting up the Museums Training Unit.

But the thing which is likely to influence museums more than anything in the next five years is registration. "It's the central plank in the overall initiative to improve standards," Longman says.

"It's worrying that there may not be enough visitors to go around, and there almost certainly isn't enough money to go around, but it's easier to set up a museum than to find the money to pay the running costs. It's only after they've been going a while that we notice initial enthusiasm beginning to wane, so our main aim is to get people to think before they start."

In other words, if you don't meet the MGC's standards, you're not a registered museum and you won't get recommended for vital grants, or get professional advice, or have sponsors put your way.

The requirements of a museum are to collect, document, preserve and exhibit authentic material for the public benefit; the collection must be in a proper public place with the right amenities, and it must be safe from being sold at the whim of the owner.

More than 200 museums have been listed since the scheme was introduced 18 months ago — 300 have applied, some were turned down, and some had decisions deferred while they try to bring themselves up to scratch.

"There are a lot of museums doing a lot of work getting ready to apply, and we're not encouraging them to apply in order to be turned down." But, Longman adds, by 1991 "it will be incumbent on museums to apply, and to have reached our standards".

COLLECTING

He sells sea shells

Colin Harper began collecting shells as a child. Thirty-five years later he had collected shell books, prints, drawings, water-colours, ceramics, and ethnographic items. He had even collected a small shell museum in Jersey.

His aim was to combine his collection with that of the museum and put the entire holding on view to the public. But the prohibitive cost and the shortage of suitable exhibition space on the island put paid to the idea, and now a large part of it is being sold in London.

It is a stunning array of 2,000 items and shows how a dedicated collector can pursue his hobby through a wide spectrum of the decorative arts and make it an attractive theme without devaluing his original vision.

Phillips is staging a special three-week holiday exhibition of the material in New Bond Street, opening on the Wednesday before the auction on January 24 and 25. The estimates range from £10 to £16,000.

Apart from its decorative aspects, the collection is the story of one man's enthusiasm. Harper, who now runs an art gallery on Jersey, can clearly remember how it began when he was a small boy living in Stranraer, Scotland.

"My grandmother had an old collecting cabinet with all sorts of things in it, including some cowrie shells from Kenya. I remember she wanted to give me two bookends as a birthday present, but I was difficult and asked for the shells instead. They had such wonderful colours, quite unlike anything you could find in Scotland. I was fascinated by them. In the end she gave them to me. I was still at school."

Stranraer High School and Gordonstoun were followed by Edinburgh University, interspersed with regular visits to the shell department of the Royal Scottish Museum in Edinburgh. He began to meet other collectors and corresponded with Eatons, probably the oldest shell shop in London, for years before he visited the premises.

"I corresponded with collectors abroad and did a lot of trading because the vast majority of shells are not particularly expensive," he says. "Many of those I sent overseas I had collected on the beach. The peak of a shell collector's career is not the same as that of an art collector who may buy a Van Gogh for $30 million; a rare shell would cost no more than £2,000."

A degree in law was followed by one in economics and he became a tax lawyer, moving to Jersey in 1978. The shell museum was purchased in 1982/83, "and my interest spread. It made me think about the social history of shells."

"They were used as money, as jewellery and as decoration. I would really have liked to put the whole thing on exhibition, but the overall cost would have been astronomical, about £1 million. I just could not do it and that is really why I have decided to sell."

The emphasis of the collection is in the 1,500-strong ceramics section, ranging from 17th-century Chinese pickle and sweetmeat dishes to the famous shell-moulded tea wares of the Belleek factory in County Fermanagh. Among the amusing items is a Chinese green-glazed box and cover in the form of a crab, circa 1860 (£150-£200) and a Minton majolica teapot, circa 1870 (£350-£500).

Two of the most outstanding items come from the celebrated "swan service" made for Count Brühl at Meissen, circa 1740. A tureen decorated with shells and nautical themes modelled by J. J. Kaendler is estimated at £7,000-£12,000, and a large plate at £12,000-£16,000.

There are about 80 books in the library, including an unrecorded copy of Benjamin Rolfe's *Testaceologia Universalis or A General System of Conchology, 1813* (£500-£700). Among the water-colours is "The Matchless Cone", one of the most famous shells of the 18th century, by Melchior Cingelaar, the Dutch miniaturist who died in 1775 (£1,000-£1,200).

When the collection has been sold, Harper will still have 20,000 shells, including those from his grandmother's cabinet. "Although the collection has virtually no commercial value, it is important to me," he says. "I am keeping it because I want to work on it in retirement — once a collector always a collector".

John Shaw

● **Exhibition:** *Phillips, 101 New Bond Street (01-629 6602). Dec 27-29, Jan 2-16; Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm; Sat, 9am-12 noon; Sun. 2-5pm. Admission free.*
"The shell in ceramics", lectures by John Sandon, the company's ceramics director. Jan 8,15, 12.30pm. Admission free.

SALES GUIDE

SOLDIER'S SALUTE: Sale includes a British set of the changing of the guard — 83 pieces in a two-layer box in good condition (est £1,000-£2,000). Although primarily a sale of lead soldiers, there are two rare garden ornaments from the Thirties (est £150).
Viewing: Jan 9, 9am-5pm; Jan 10, 9am-11am.
Phillips West Two, 10 Salem Road, Bayswater, London W2 (01-229 9090).
Sale: Jan 10, 12 noon.

MARINE MAGIC: Forty lots of outstanding marine etchings, modestly estimated between £100-£150/£300-£500. A good collector's marine sale covering ship models, prints, water-colours and oils.
Viewing: Jan 7, 2.30-5pm; Jan 8/9/10, 8.45am-7pm.
Bonhams, Montpelier Street, Knightsbridge, London SW7 1HH (01-584 9161).
Sale: Jan 11, 11am and 6pm.

BUMPER BUNDLE: Good mixed bag of English and Continental furniture, bronzes, sculpture, works of art, clocks and watches in a two-day event at Billingshurst. There is some handsome Georgian mahogany, including several circular pedestal tables (£2,000-£3,000).
Viewing: Jan 5, 9.30am-4.30pm; Jan 6, 9.30am-12.30pm; Jan 7, 2.30-5pm; Jan 8,9, 9.30am-4.30pm.
Sotheby's, Summers Place, Billingshurst, West Sussex RH14 9AD (0403 783933).
Sale: Jan 9, 10am and 2pm; Jan 10, 10.30am and 2pm.

CUE CAMERA: Cameras, photographs and optical toys are featured, including a British mahogany and brass magic lantern with three-draw brass-bound lenses, circa 1900 (est £800-£1,000). Also on offer: a Kodak No 6 Curkut camera used to take 360° panoramic photographs, 1905-10 (£700-£1,000).
Christie's, South Kensington, 85 Old Brompton Road, London SW7 (01-581 7611). Sale: Jan 11, 2pm.

J.S.

GARDENING

CLARE ROBERTS

If you can't stand the heat

. . . then why not go into the garden? Francesca Greenoak on the great escape

However wonderful your Christmas, however splendid the presents, exquisite the food, and perfect the society of your relatives, there is always a time when you long to be apart, to remove yourself from the hothouse atmosphere of poinsettias and Christmas pudding. Gardeners are fortunate in having ready-escape routes: a rose or shrub given as a Christmas present that calls for attention, or some tools or garden gadget that you would like to try out as soon as possible.

Digging your way through a flowerbed or vegetable plot is a good way of working off pent-up energy, but it is important to start slowly, or you will be incarcerated for the remainder of the festive season with a strained back. The British Chiropractic Association (BCA) warns against regarding gardening as a way of keeping fit; rather, we should maintain a level of fitness so that we can enjoy twinge-free gardening. The BCA produces a leaflet that tells gardeners how to avoid back problems (01-222 8866).

Another energetic and satisfying job for a winter's day is to turn the compost heap. This speeds up the process of decomposition, particularly if the heap (or bin) has cooled off in the past month. The idea is to repack the heap, turning cool undecayed material into the centre, where it should begin to heat.

If the weather is too bad for out-of-doors gardening, the next best thing is a shed or greenhouse, which can accommodate a great deal of creative pottering. There are many minor jobs to be done, such as checking over-wintering plants, removing dead leaves or other debris, and making sure bowls of bulbs for later flowering are moist, checking there is a supply of compost for spring sowing, inspecting the propagator and cleaning tools and flowerpots.

Most of the seed catalogues have already arrived, and selecting your order for next year will make a pleasant indoor chore over the Christmas period. This requires privacy, preferably a quiet sofa, a drink at your elbow and a pencil to chew — or you will find you have ordered all kinds of outlandish things by mistake.

The current issue of *Gardening from Which* contains an assessment of quantity and germination in seeds from a selection of well-known mail order seed companies. One of the less well-known firms, D. T. Brown of Blackpool (0253 882371), emerges as supplying the best value, for quantity and quality. However, I should point out that I have grown seeds from several of the less favourably assessed firms, and I have rarely been unhappy with the performance.

If you complain about poor germination, most seed companies will replace your order without question. Marshalls of Wisbech will dispatch a new seed packet within 24 hours of receiving a complaint on its "replacement service line" (0945 583407).

If you want something more demanding to fill your time, fish out a geometry set and have a go at designing a knot garden. The Petersfield Physic Garden is running a competition to design a small knot for a section of this ancient walled garden in the centre of Petersfield. It was given to the Hampshire Gardens Trust, so that a garden with the flowers, fruits and design of the 17th-century period could be re-created, and opened (without charge) to the public.

The competition requires "closed knot" gardens made of intricately arranged patterns of dwarf hedges, which the spectator views as a whole from the outside. Plants such as box, hyssop, lavender, thyme, santolina and marjoram are suggested, and coloured gravels are permitted. The whole design (to fit an area 3.5m x 3.5m) will be edged with brick and surrounded by a gravel path along which people can view the knot. The design may be a drawing, painting or any kind of representation, and should be accompanied by a scaled planting plan on graph paper.

For precise details, write to Petersfield Physic Garden Knot Competition, c/o Heath Farmhouse, Petersfield, Hampshire GU31 4HU. The winning design (which should look authentic and be easily maintained) will be planted in the garden and a £25 book token awarded to its creator.

WEEKEND TIPS

● **Check newly-planted trees and shrubs, making sure the soil around the roots is firm and the ties are in place.**
● **Gently shake the snow from conifers to prevent its weight breaking branches.**
● **If weather prevents the planting of bare-rooted trees or shrubs, cover the roots with damp peat or compost and store in a shed or garage until conditions improve.**
● **Give metal tools a wipe with an oily rag (or a squirt of WD40) when cleaning after use.**
● **Don't prune apple and pear trees during hard frosts.**

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Continued From Facing Page

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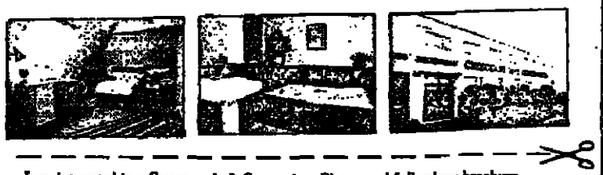
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TRAVEL

Forget skis, get on board

With so little snow on the ski slopes, Sam Kiley decided to go alternative

Austria's Tyrolean mountains last week resembled sad brown rocks whacked about the ears with whitewash. There is almost no snow in the French and most German, Swiss and Italian resorts, and a skid about on thin, unforgiving snow might be seen as a privilege.

For skiers even less forgiving, the second best is to sweat out frustrations in a sauna or to drown sorrows in the Christmas duty-free.

Poor snow sometimes suits beginners but others find most of the interesting runs rocky and crowded. For them all, there is an exhilarating alternative — at least for those under thirtysomething.

Children from all over southern England have been making weekend pilgrimages to the labyrinthine foundations of London's South Bank for a decade or so to tic-tac, hang-five and scoot up and down the paving banks that have been unwittingly provided for their skateboards.

Enthusiasm for the sport, derived from surfing, has ebbed and flowed over the years, but skateboarding has come back with a vengeance and spawned a snow-based version of itself — known as snowboarding.

The board was designed for deep off-piste snow, where the experts appear to glide through whipped cream, but you can learn to use it on ordinary slopes. All you need are reinforced wrists, pneumatic knees, a thick skull and the ability to forget all you know about bipedal skiing.

Unlike the mono-ski, on which the skier faces directly down the slope and skis in the normal way but with his feet welded together, snowboarders, like surfers and skateboarders, stand across the board looking over their downhill shoulders.

As soon as a mistake is made you find yourself about six feet in the air. Unlike in normal skiing, the idea is to keep *off* the edges when turning. If an edge is used at all, the bite must come not on the downhill but the uphill side.

SKI SHOOT

Certainly different: a mountainside version of skateboarding is a treat when the snow is poor

The board is difficult to drive slowly, largely because to turn you have to throw the top of your body in the direction you want to go and then kick the back of the board around with the rear foot and leg — again the opposite of normal skiing.

"Please try to learn to stop more gently," said Oscar, the snowboard supremo of Obergurgl, at the beginning of my second session. "We have to be careful on the boards. People want to ban us from the pistes because they think we are too dangerous."

His eyes filled with terror as the only way I could find of stopping was to throw myself upslope and dig in the edge for dear life, sending shards of ice ahead of me, before collapsing at his feet.

To turn, and control speed, I had to let the board slide flat on to the slope. It is then possible to spin it like a ruler perched on a pin — through 360 degrees if necessary, and more often if unnecessary. To ski slowly, you keep the board flat and slip down the slope in a traverse.

Depending on the style of the board, the feet can be fixed in parallel, both facing down the hill at an angle, which might be easier for those who have never surfed or visited the South Bank pavements, or they can face in opposite directions — this is called "Goofy-style".

It is easier to snowboard like Goofy because the skier has greater push at the back. And there is something about having your foot facing the opposite way to where the rest of the body is going that makes it feel like a rudder — which is what it is.

There are no poles for support, so at first you need reinforced wrists to bear the brunt of unscheduled stops. But on a steep beginners' slope the whirl of the shoulders and pump of the back leg come quickly and the fun begins.

Snowboards are about two-thirds of the length of skis, so you feel every bump and curl of a slope. In a crouched position you also feel closer to the ground and the whole sensation is one of extraordinary freedom — reminiscent of skateboarding among pedestrians, off pavements, and through traffic.

It beats skiing with two skis on dull and sugary slopes peppered with stones and too short to get the knees and thighs pounding with any true rhythm. At the start of the season, when conditions are doubtful, to try something different is not only a relief but a treat.

Beginners look down at their unruly ski tips and wonder whether they will ever control them both. Real skiers look on with disdain or envy as you whirl, squirt and clatter down the slopes. You feel naughty on a snowboard.

For early season snow, go for height, and go for a glacier. **Ronald Faux tests Tignes**

Satisfaction on your doorstep

Tignes, I was advised, is not the best place to parade fine furs and Gucci boots. It is first and foremost a skiers' resort, a bit worn around its non-essential edges, and lacking the glamour and glitz enjoyed by Val-d'Isère, its elegant neighbour. But for skiers who arrive for honest skiing and wish to keep down costs by self-catering, the cluster of communities around Tignes (Lavachet, Tignes Le Lac and Val Claret) is excellent.

Arriving is the hard part. In this corner of the Alps all skiers, be they kitted out by Gucci or their local army surplus store, must pass through the same needle's eye to reach the snow; namely the town of Moutiers, *un cou de bouteille par excellence*.

Our coach from Geneva airport, driven by a man of cool *savoir-faire* and drooping Gitane, swung from the line of traffic forming an endless frill on the outskirts of Moutiers and launched into back streets for which the vehicle was never designed. As a whale might attempt a limbo dance, it squeezed beneath bridges, down alleyways and around tight corners to emerge triumphantly ahead of the queue on the far side of town. "It will be better when the new dual carriageway is built for the Olympics but until then it will be worse," the driver grumbled.

The Britannia Airways jet had arrived in Geneva from Gatwick in less than half the time it took the coach to reach Tignes. It was nearly six hours before we were driving through the ski resort, with snowflakes the size of golf balls drifting across the road. We continued a few blizzard-bound kilometres further to the satellite village of Val Claret, higher up and further into the mountains but linked to Tignes by a free bus service.

The architects who designed Val Claret had doorsteps much in their minds. Every entrance to the tall apartment blocks built into the hillside allows skiers to step on to skis within a stride of the door. It is then down, down and away to the network of lifts that fans out to serve 190 miles of prepared runs and unlimited off-piste skiing.

Tignes, the skiers' resort: the area offers good, honest skiing

Ski could remain latched to boot until the last stop of the day put the same doorstep one stride away. It is a convenience that justifies the spread of such purpose-built centres.

Val Claret, with its bold skyline of apartment blocks and balconies, has more wood than concrete to soften the starkness of its modern buildings. With Tignes and Val-d'Isère, it is a launch point for the ski area known as L'Espace Killy, promoted as a rival to Les Trois Vallées and Les Portes du Soleil and enjoying the same essential qualities — access to high snows.

Val Claret is 7,000ft above sea level, and snow throughout the season can be almost guaranteed. If the piste around the village happens to turn icy or granular, the lifts reach up to La Grande Motte where there is year-round glacier skiing at more than 11,000ft. The six separate sectors of L'Espace Killy are served by 116 lifts, all of them covered by the same pass. Although there are excellent facilities for beginners, with 120 ski instructors available at the Tignes and Val Claret schools (half of them with a command of English that allows them to explain the subtle mysteries of the parallel turn), this is a ski area where intermediate and advanced skiers will find much to occupy them.

One analysis shows more than 40 marked black or red runs for the more expert and 84 green runs that pick the gentlest way down the mountainside. La Grande Motte alone has runs more than five miles long among rugged high mountain scenery, while easier routes descend through the typical alpine villages of Les Brevières and Les Boisses.

Although the *après-ski* facilities are judged to be more sparse than at many other comparable resorts, there are good bars and restaurants where a table d'hôte evening meal may be had for FFr70-FFr100 (£7-£10), excluding wine. These places are full of surprises. A mademoiselle dressed in full, apron-frilled alpine regalia took our order. "I can't get to grips with that," she said, "try again in English. I come from Hull."

TRAVEL NOTES

● Bladon Lines (01-785 3131) offers chalet accommodation in Tignes and Val Claret during February, from £329 for seven nights (£539 for 14) with budget accommodation from £249 (£429). A lift pass costs about £66 (£125). Ski and boot hire is £33 a week. Bladon Lines are at 56-58 Putney High Street, London SW15 1SF.

● A good ski package is offered by Airport Skis, with skis, boots and sticks ready for collection at Gatwick, Manchester and Heathrow (served by the Hayes warehouse), at £36 a week. More exotic "test" skis are also available. Contact Airport Skis, Squirrels Trading Estate, Viveash Close, Hayes, Middlesex UB3 4RZ (01-573 2866).

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Following the pilgrims' way

Pilgrimages are back in fashion in Britain. Russell Chamberlin visits one of Europe's foremost shrines in Norfolk, which was built after a holy vision

Something decidedly odd has twice happened in the little Norfolk village of Walsingham, once in the 11th century and once again 900 years later. Some time about the year 1060, the lady of the manor, a certain Richeldis, had – or claimed to have had – a vision in which the Madonna instructed her to build a replica of the Holy House of Nazareth in Walsingham.

The nature of the vision has been debated for centuries. Whatever its origins, it was powerful enough not only to create one of Europe's foremost shrines but to survive four centuries of suppression, before bursting into astonishing efflorescence in our own time.

Suppressed by Henry VIII, the shrine was restored in the 1920s by a charismatic Anglican priest, Arthur Hope Patten, in the teeth of orthodox opposition. The first pilgrimages, numbering a few hundred, took place under the disapproving gaze of the Bishop of Norwich and his fellow prelates. By contrast, in 1980 the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Cardinal-Archbishop of Westminster jointly led a pilgrimage of thousands. Annually, some 250,000 people visit this small village, causing severe crises of hygiene at peak periods.

This is, of course, just one aspect of a remarkable, nationwide renaissance of the pilgrimage phenomenon in a country which was not only in the forefront of the 16th-century Protestant reaction against such "popish practices" but is also stigmatized increasingly as being irreligious. The ancient focal points have come to life again: St Albans and Canterbury; Durham and Lindisfarne; Ripon and Holywell. Even the tiny shrine in Bawburgh, Norfolk, dedicated to the 11th century farm labourer saint, Wulstan, now sees its regular pilgrimages.

But Walsingham is the doyen, now as in the Middle Ages. You can get an idea of its medieval importance from the fact that, just before its suppression, the shrine was taking in £260 a year, as opposed to the £36 being taken in by Thomas à Becket's shrine at Canterbury. Erasmus was one of the hundreds of illustrious people who visited it, and though he left a sardonic account of the vial of the Virgin's milk, which was supposed to be venerated, he also left one of the accounts of the Holy House which served as guide for the actual rebuilding of the shrine in 1931.

The best approach to Walsingham is, even today, along the traditional route from Houghton St Giles. About a mile outside the village is the exquisite 14th-century Slipper Chapel, the only intact survival from the Middle Ages. Traditionally, this is where pilgrims removed their shoes to walk the last mile barefoot – Henry VIII was one such and the more devout pilgrims still do it. The Chapel was the centre of Roman Catholic pilgrimages until 1981 when an immense, handsome, austere, new building was consecrated. It can seat 700 or accommodate an open-air congregation of 10,000, setting a potent example of the modern drawing power of the ancient shrine.

Beyond the Slipper Chapel, the Vale of Walsingham rises on each side with the little river Stiffkey burbling through. The village itself is compact, almost urban in feeling, at its heart an open square dominated by a handsome pump, the architectural fabric representing every period from the Middle Ages onward. The titanic remains of the medieval priory are on private land, but access is permitted to the ruins on payment of a modest sum and it is a focal point of any organized pilgrimage, with thousands pouring in to stand where their predecessors stood five centuries ago.

But it is the Anglican shrine which is the high point of the village. Largely Hope Patten's concept, it was a deliberate attempt on his part to create a devotional atmosphere. The interior of the church is dizzyingly eclectic, drawing freely upon Byzantine or Norman or medieval English or Italian sources. It would be dramatic in Rome: startling in London. Here, in a Norfolk agricultural village, it simply stuns the imagination.

Inside, its central feature is a replica of the Holy House, based on contemporary descriptions of the original – a plain, hut-like structure studded all over with stones taken from other shrines, its interior blazing with flickering candle-lights so that the looming image of the Madonna, based on the Great Seal of the Priory of Walsingham, takes on a life of its own. Nearby, outside the house but still within the church, is the supposed holy well, the centre of considerable controversy. Patten appears to have found it by deduction. Archaeological evidence places it in the 16th century and, when uncovered, it contained old shoes of the period – a fact which not only helps to date it but also substantiates the picture of deliberate desecration at the time.

On the other side of the country, in the county now called Clwyd but probably better known as Flintshire, is a shrine which, though yielding in prestige to Walsingham, surpasses it in two ways – its superb 15th-century architecture and the fact that it was never abandoned even during the fiercest Puritan backlash. St Winefride's Well in Holywell has an origin as enigmatic as that of Walsingham's. St Winefride was a real person – her relics were translated to Shrewsbury Abbey in 1138 – but her association with the famous healing well is entirely legendary. She was supposed to have resisted the advances of a local prince and had her head cut off. Her uncle, St Beuno, is said to have placed it back on again – but where the head had struck the ground a well sprang forth.

There was a chapel on the site from at least the 7th century, but the present structure was built under the patronage of Henry VII's mother, Margaret Beaufort. It is built on rising ground on two levels, a chapel above and the crypt below, from which the spring emerges, the whole richly decorated with carvings. Pilgrims are supposed to immerse themselves three times in the water. I visited it on a day when snow was sifting down from a crystal sky and was assured that the beautifully clear water is as shockingly cold in August as it is in December, though none of the scores who immerse themselves ever seems to come to any harm.

St Winefride's Well has an additional, quirky claim to fame, for it was here that the talented, utterly ruthless, doomed Frederick Rolfe, self-styled "Baron Corvo" entered on one of his self-destructive feuds with the luckless priest of the shrine. Rolfe's curious banners, cause of the feud, are still preserved in the presbytery.

Tourist? Or pilgrim? The terms are more or less interchangeable. Chaucer's pilgrims were as much bound on a jaunt as anything – he emphasizes that they were dressed in everyday clothes instead of the regulation pilgrims' garb. "Holiday" after all, comes from "holy-day". The real-life Margery Kemp, whose 14th-century autobiography gives a vivid insight into medieval pilgrimages, was reproached by her fellow pilgrims for her excessive piety "Ye shall not speak of the Gospel but shall sit still and be merry as we do". The medieval Church took the perennial human desire to wander, to "seken straunge strondes", and gave it a purpose. The current revival probably has the same motivation.

BRYN COLTON

Madonna and child: Our Lady of Walsingham and a view of the village square and famous pump

'The ancient focal points have come to life again: St Albans and Canterbury: Durham and Lindisfarne: Ripon and Holywell. Even the tiny shrine in Bawburgh, Norfolk, dedicated to an 11th century farm labourer, sees its regular pilgrimages'

TRAVEL NEWS

Free phone

Look out for the holiday equivalent of the January sales. "Buy me" incentives to book summer holidays are beginning to appear, as tour operators become increasingly desperate for customers. Free car phones (with no charge for installation or aerial) and £5 deposits are the lures offered by Cosmos (061 480 5799) on summer bookings.

Lunn Poly, the High Street agency chain, will be knocking £70 off "any overseas inclusive (package) holiday booking for two people or more" in a one-day sale on Wednesday December 27. The deal is dependant on booking Lunn Poly holiday insurance.

Thomas Cook has discounts of up to £120 for two people booking any holiday in its own Faraway brochure between December 27 and February 28. The company is also offering discounts of up to £50 per person on packages from other tour operators' brochures.

● **On-the-spot national health cover for travel within the European Community will be available over the Post Office counter from January 2. This welcome reworking of the DHHS Form E111 scheme, ensuring free treatment in the event of an accident or emergency, will accelerate the business of arranging cover.**

● **With air package holidays showing a marked decline in popularity, Brittany Ferries is gearing up for an increase in independent travel in 1990, with more sailings on several routes. Brittany is freezing many of its 1990 cross-Channel fares at this year's levels, and is cutting prices on its Plymouth-Santander route in the early season. Information: 0705 827701/0752 221321.**

● **Cunard's Queen Elizabeth 2 is to operate a British Isles cruise for the first time, to mark the 150th anniversary of the Cunard Line. The QE2 will sail from Southampton on July 22 and will make calls at Cork, Liverpool and Greenock. The cruise can be taken on its own, from £870, or combined with a trans-Atlantic crossing, from £2,275. Information: 01-491 3930.**

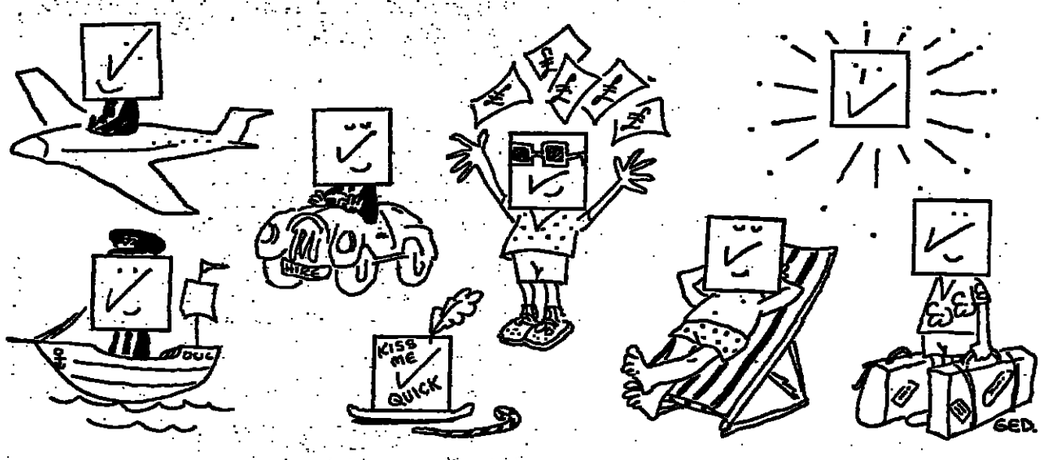
● **A programme of short breaks in a range of Spanish *paradores* and Portuguese *pousadas* has been produced by Unicorn Holidays (0462 422223). A typical two-night break at a *pousada* converted from a 16th-century manor-house near Oporto costs £222, including return scheduled flight from Heathrow, accommodation and car hire.**

TRAVEL NOTES

● **Inter-Church Travel of Folkestone runs a series of pilgrimage tours in the UK as well as overseas. Walsingham is on the "Norwich circuit", Holywell on the "Chester circuit" (Freephone 0800 300 444).**

THE [illegible] TIMES

HOLIDAY TRAVELLERS' SURVEY



What is your idea of a perfect holiday? Is it a journey to be enjoyed for its own sake, or a dash to the sun and sand? Please tell us about your holiday habits and aspirations. Then our writers can report on more of the places you want to read about, and research the information you tell us you will find most useful.

Your age: Teens ☐ Twenties ☐ Thirties ☐ Forties ☐ Fifties ☐ Sixties ☐ Seventies and over ☐

Sex: Male ☐ Female ☐

Do you usually travel (excluding business trips): Alone ☐ As a couple ☐ As a family ☐ With friends ☐ In a group ☐

How many holidays of four nights or more did you take in 1989: One ☐ Two ☐ Three ☐ Four ☐ More ☐

Did your main holiday last: 1 week ☐ 2 weeks ☐ 3 weeks ☐ 4 or more weeks ☐

Was your main holiday spent in: England ☐ Scotland ☐ Wales ☐ Ulster ☐ Eire ☐ Spain ☐ Portugal ☐ France ☐ Yugoslavia ☐ Italy ☐ Turkey ☐ Austria ☐ Switzerland ☐ Greece ☐ USA ☐
Elsewhere in Europe (please state) _____
Elsewhere in the World (please state) _____

Did you: Make your own arrangements through a travel agent ☐ Make your own arrangements directly ☐ Buy a package ☐ Book through a club or society ☐

Was your holiday accommodation: Hotel ☐ Guest house ☐ B&B ☐ Caravan ☐ Self catering ☐ Boat (including flotilla) ☐ Cruise ship ☐ Tent ☐

Was your principal mode of transport: Air ☐ Rail ☐ Sea ☐ Bus/coach ☐ Car ☐ Motor cycle ☐ Bicycle ☐

Was your holiday: A great success ☐ Very good ☐ Good ☐ A bit disappointing ☐ Very disappointing ☐ A disaster ☐

Please say why your holiday was good/bad/indifferent _____

What, roughly, did you spend per adult, including meals, sports, entertainment, tips etc: £100 ☐ £200 ☐ £300 ☐ £400 ☐ £500 ☐ £750 ☐ £1,000 ☐ £1,250 ☐ £1,500 ☐ £1,750 ☐ £2,000 ☐ £2,500 ☐ More than £3,000 ☐

Was your choice of destination influenced by any of the following: Newspaper or magazine travel articles ☐ TV travel programmes ☐ TV advertisements ☐ Newspaper or magazine advertisements ☐ Radio travel programmes ☐ Books ☐ Other _____

Where are you planning to spend your holiday in 1990 _____

If time and/or money were no object, where/how would you spend your main holiday in 1990 _____

Do you intend to spend more or less money than last year on your main holiday: More ☐ Less ☐ About the same ☐

Do you read *The Times* travel pages for: An escapist read ☐ Specific recommendations ☐ Holidays ideas ☐ Price information ☐

Would you like to see more information on any of the following topics: Hotels ☐ Restaurants ☐ Flights ☐ Ferries ☐ Coach travel ☐ Rail travel ☐ Car hire ☐ Cruises ☐ Guide books ☐ Sights & sites ☐ Activity holidays ☐ Childrens' facilities ☐ Disabled facilities ☐

Have you any other requests or comments? _____

Please cut out and send your completed questionnaire to

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Two Germanies embrace at the Gate

From Anne McElvoy
West Berlin

The most powerful symbol of postwar German divisions, the Brandenburg Gate, re-opened yesterday after 28 years in the presence of the leaders of both Germanies and thousands of cheering East and West Berliners.

Crowds from both parts of the city flocked in the pouring rain to watch Herr Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor, step into East Berlin for the first time and shake hands with Herr Hans Modrow, the East German Prime Minister.

Holding his hands high in a gesture of victory, the Chancellor said: "This is one of the most important moments in my life. Standing here I feel that we are in Germany, and that we will do everything in our power to achieve unity."

The two wide gaps struck in the Wall behind the Gate on Thursday night failed to accommodate the surge of crowds from both sides. West Berliners scrambled over the Wall to meet their fellow-townspeople in East Berlin underneath the portals of the Gate, while East German border guards wearing flowers joined the crowd in toasting the opening with champagne.

In an atmosphere reminiscent of the opening of the East German border on November 9, strangers hugged and kissed.

Herr Modrow said: "The Brandenburg Gate crossing is not just one of many ... the burning stench of war must never again be smelled here. It must be a gate of peace."

But his words were almost drowned out by shouts of "Helmut, Helmut".

Herr Walter Momper, the Mayor of West Berlin, told the crowd: "Life in our city is now normal again." The Royal Welch Fusiliers, together with their regimental goat Billy, provided the guard of honour on behalf of the British Army.

As Herr Kohl, accompanied by Herr Momper, made his way through the crowd to the Reichstag, the former German parliament, the two were surrounded by flag-waving West Berliners and Herr Momper was briefly knocked to the ground. "I was a little scared," he said afterwards, "but on a day like this I knew they meant well."

Chancellor Kohl, dishevelled and evidently relieved to reach the shelter of the Reichstag, said: "I have never been so wet or so happy."

Many shouted "We are one people" and waved West German flags, confirming the old German adage that the winds of history always blow first through the Brandenburg Gate.

Thirst for unity: East Germans crash through barricades at the Brandenburg Gate and, below, West and East Berliners mingle as they go through the Gate.

Built by Frederick the Great, it became the favourite rallying point for the Nazis and a frequent background for Hitler's speeches in Berlin. After the Communists took power in East Germany, the Quadriga — the statue of the goddess of victory on top of the Gate — was turned round from its original position to face the east.

In 1953 it was the stage for the uprising of East German workers, who marched through the Gate as a symbol of revolt before they were brutally suppressed.

Despite its new role as symbol of peace and reconciliation, the opening did not pass without controversy.

Herr Kohl and Herr Modrow had agreed to conduct the ceremony together when they met in Dresden last Tuesday, but intervention by the Allies made it clear that they expected the special status of Berlin to be respected and the opening was instead carried out by the mayors of East and West Berlin jointly.

President Mitterrand of France left East Berlin yesterday after his three-day visit just two hours before the Gate opened. An invitation apparently made by East Germany for him to attend the ceremony was turned down.

M Mitterrand told a press conference: "I have given no thought to attending the ceremony, and if I had I would have still said no."

President Mitterrand expressed confidence in East Germany's new reformist Government and said he saw no risk that it would seek a rapid reunification with West Germany.

M Mitterrand said no one wanted to dictate to the two Germanies what their future should be; they were one nation and belonged together.

"I am not of those who tries to put on the brakes," he said, but the process should be given time to mature. Any change must be the result of the will of the people expressed democratically in free votes.

A seasonal look at what the law might do to Christmas

The case against Santa Claus ...

What might a lawyer make of the behaviour of that red-nosed figure Santa Claus? Might some latter-day Scrooge put an end to his Christmas Eve activities? Counsel's advice was clear (if expensive). The case against Santa Claus is devastating ...

1 Conspiracy with elves, pixies and other persons unknown to enter private buildings with intent to steal intoxicating liquor and mince-pies therein, contrary to section 1 of the Criminal Law Act, 1977. If convicted Mr Claus shall be liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 14 years.

2 Damaging property without lawful excuse, namely chimneys, intending to damage such property or being reckless as to whether such property would be damaged, contrary to Section 1 of the Criminal Law Damage Act, 1971; 10 years' imprisonment is the maximum term.

3 Wanton and Furious Driving of a carriage, contrary to Section 35 of the Offences Against the Person Act, 1861. Maximum penalty — two years' imprisonment.

4 Being knowingly concerned in facilitating the entry into the United Kingdom of elves and pixies knowing or having reasonable cause for believing them to be illegal entrants, contrary to Section 25 of the Immigration Act, 1971. Maximum penalty — seven years' imprisonment.

5 In addition, summary proceedings relating to charges of wilful cruelty to animals, namely reindeers, should be instituted at the appropriate magistrates' courts.

6 The same applies to the multiplicity of drink-drive offences, driving without insurance and vehicle excise licence charges facing Mr Claus.

7 Use of an aircraft for the carriage of passengers or cargo without licence, contrary to Section 64 of the Civil Aviation Act, 1982. The maximum penalty for this offence is two years' imprisonment.

8 Contravention of the following Articles of the Air Navigation Order 1985 (S.I. 1985 No.1643) or as authorized by Section 61 of the Civil Aviation Act, 1982.
(i) Prohibition of Carriage of dangerous goods, as laid down in Article 44.
(ii) Endangering the Safety of Aircraft, contrary to Article 47.
(iii) Endangering the Safety of property, contrary to Article 48.
(iv) Prohibition of drunkenness in aircraft, as laid down in Article 49.
(v) Failing to regulate flight times of flight crew, contrary to Article 54 (1).

Each offence is punishable by a fine not exceeding £2000.00 and imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years.

9 Conspiring with persons unknown to make a prohibited signal, namely the hanging of stockings by a fireplace, for the information of a person in an aircraft with the intention that goods be smuggled into the United Kingdom, contrary to section 84 (1) of the Customs and Excise Management Act, 1979, and Section 1 of the Criminal Law Act, 1977.

Maximum term — six months' imprisonment.

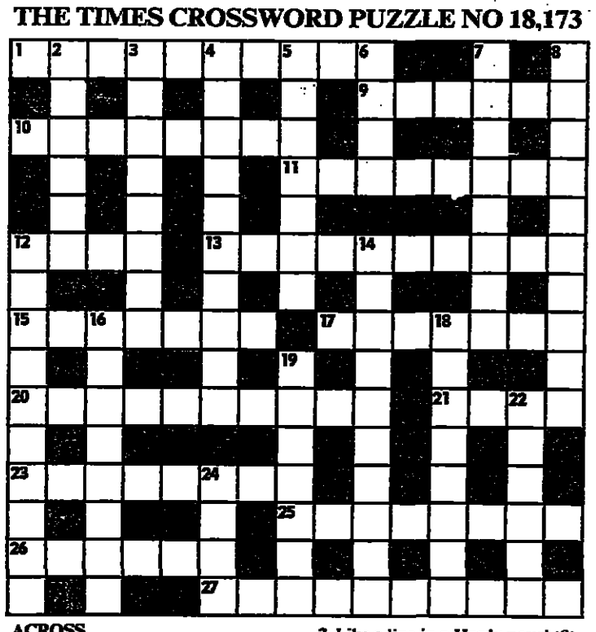
Identikit picture of the man

10 Of the aforementioned offences, charges 1 (Conspiring to Burgle) and 2 (Criminal Damage) fell within Schedule I of the Extradition Act, 1870, as amended by the Extradition Act, 1873.

The existence of extradition treaties with countries likely to harbour the defendant, such as Greenland, Finland and Iceland must be investigated.

11 In total Mr Claus could face a maximum term of 50 years' imprisonment, unlimited financial penalties and a lifetime ban from driving a sleigh.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,173



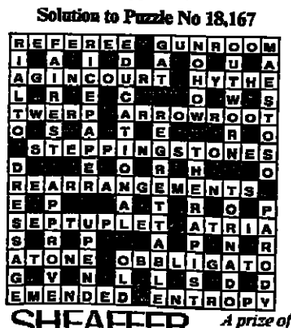
ACROSS

1 A savage recruiter (4-6).
9 Sovereign remedy team found in needle returned (6).
10 Appeared loud (6,2).
11 Backs up in games (8).
12 Passion that isn't final (4).
13 Snake's indirect influence with monarch (10).
15 Soldier in Ulster, perhaps, following cardinal (7).
17 Exploit bearing of French pupil (7).
20 His or her vital contribution is put in the bank (5,5).
21 Polish lover of Chopin (4).
23 Name-dropping constable tipsy in the bar (8).
25 Wipe out in a recess (8).
26 With sweetheart, ran (6).
27 One you reported into as matron ordered? (10).

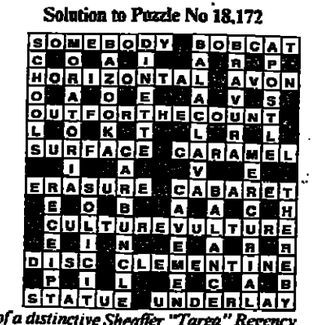
DOWN

2 One captured by queen, perhaps, as a knight appears (6).
3 Like a line in a Hardy novel (8).
4 Sympathize with less than firm position (10).
5 Joint leaders in league? (7).
6 Cut repeated in area — premature, apparently (4).
7 University pair getting ten in Oval game (8).
8 Surrounded by pieces of pyramids, King Edward's unsatisfied (10).
12 Angry motorist snotty at first (10).
14 Harbour area right inside town after reconstruction (10).
16 Medicine stolen? One lands shortly in court (4,4).
18 If impostor dares, it's organized (8).
19 A French king — name to erase from memory (7).
22 Resort in part of Germany (6).
24 Discard queen from one's hand, leaving knaves (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,167



Solution to Puzzle No 18,172



SHEAFFER® *A prize of a distinctive Sheaffer "Targa" Regency Stripe fountain pen with a solid 14-carat gold inlaid nib will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.*

Name/Address.....

.....

WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

PHILLUMENY
a. A purple scented clematis
b. Collecting matchbox labels
c. Celebrity-hunting

ACROMEGALIC
a. Prehistoric Greek building
b. Having big arms and legs
c. High-mountained

SPITZ
a. Hock and seltzer mixed
b. Expectoration
c. A Pomeranian

NEPHALISM
a. Teetotalism
b. A disease of the kidneys
c. Nudism as a religion

Answers on page 36, column 1

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0898 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London.....701
Kent,Surrey,Sussex.....702
Dorset,Hants & IOW.....703
Devon & Cornwall.....704
Wilts,Glouc,Avon,Soms.....705
Berks,Bucks,Oxon.....706
Beds,Herts & Essex.....707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs.....708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent.709
Shrops,Herefds & Worcs.....710
Central Midlands.....711
East Midlands.....712
Lincs & Humberside.....713
Dyfed & Powys.....714
Gwynedd & Clwyd.....715
N W England.....716
W & S Yorks & Dales.....717
N E England.....718
Cumbria & Lake District.....719
S W Scotland.....720
W Central Scotland.....721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders..722
E Central Scotland.....723
Grampian & E Highlands.....724
N W Scotland.....725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland...726
N Ireland.....727

Weathercall is charged at 5p for 8 seconds (peak and standard) 5p for 12 seconds (off peak).

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For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24-hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code.

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C. London (within N & S Circs.).731
M-ways/roads M4-M1.....732
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T...733
M-ways/roads Dartford T.-M23 734
M-ways/roads M23- M4.....735
M25 London Orbital only.....736

National traffic and roadworks
National motorways.....737
West Country.....738
Wales.....739
Midlands.....740
East Anglia.....741
North-west England.....742
North-east England.....743
Scotland.....744
Northern Ireland.....745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 5p for 8 seconds (peak and standard) 5p for 12 seconds (off peak).

The winners of last Saturday's competition are: D Burwood, London Road, Wickford, Essex; K Dargavel, Emlyn Road, London; J V Rawcliffe, Broad Campden, Chipping Campden, Glos; M Edmenson, High Street, Princes End, Tipton, W Midlands; M Lawson, The Fairway, Saltburn-by-the-Sea, Cleveland.

Prize Jumbo Crossword, page 40
Sports Jumbo Crossword, page 42

WEATHER

Rain over Northern Ireland will spread to all of Scotland except the north by early afternoon. Some sleet or snow on high ground is expected. Clearer showery weather will follow. Over England and Wales, cloud and rain already in the west will spread to most other parts in the morning. Sunny spells and showers will follow, most of the showers in the west before it turns cloudy in the evening. Outlook: Unsettled.

ABROAD

MIDDAY: t=thunder; d=drizzle; fg=fog; s=sun; sl=sleet; sn=snow; f=fair; c=cloud; r=rain

	C	F			C	F	
Ajaccio	22	72	s	Majorca	-	-	-
Akrotiri	19	66	s	Malaga	-	-	-
Alex'dria	19	66	f	Malta	18	64	s
Algiers	23	73	s	Melb'rne	17	63	c
Amst'dm	11	52	c	Mexico C*	19	66	s
Athens	16	61	s	Miami*	26	79	f
Bahrain	18	64	s	Milan	7	45	d
Barbados*	28	82	f	Montreal*	-17	1	s
Barcelna	-	-	-	Moscow	-1	30	c
Belgrade	16	61	s	Munich	12	54	s
Berlin	11	52	c	Nairobi	25	77	c
Bermuda*	17	63	c	Naples	15	59	f
Biarritz	11	52	r	N Delhi	18	64	s
Bordx	12	54	f	N York*	-6	21	c
Brussels	9	48	r	Nice	14	57	c
Budapest	12	54	f	Oslo	-1	30	sn
B Aires*	30	86	s	Paris	11	52	r
Cairo	20	68	s	Peking	1	34	s
Cape Tn	24	75	s	Perth	22	72	f
C'blanca	18	64	f	Prague	11	52	s
Chicago*	-23	-9	s	Reykjvik	-1	30	f
Chr'church	18	64	s	Rhodes	18	64	s
Cologne	10	50	r	Rio de J	26	79	s
C'phgn	7	45	c	Riyadh	15	59	s
Corfu	16	61	f	Rome	16	61	s
Dublin	5	41	c	Salzburg	13	55	s
Dubrovnik	15	59	f	S'Prieco*	9	48	sn
Faro	17	63	s	Santiago*	28	82	s
Florence	16	61	f	S Paulo*	25	77	c
Frankfurt	11	52	r	Seoul	3	37	s
Funchal	18	64	f	Sing'por	31	88	f
Geneva	9	48	r	Stockhlm	-2	28	r
Gibraltar	16	61	f	Strasb'rg	11	52	c
Helsinki	1	34	c	Sydney	20	68	c
Hong K	20	68	c	Tangier	18	64	f
Innsbruck	15	59	s	Tel Aviv	18	64	c
Istanbul	11	52	s	Tenerife	-	-	-
Jeddah	29	84	s	Tokyo	11	52	c
Lisbon	15	59	f	Venice	9	48	c
Locarno	7	45	r	Vienna	9	48	c
L Angeles*	14	57	c	Warsaw	11	52	c
Luxumbg	9	48	r	Wash'ton*	-2	28	s
Luxor	25	77	s	Wel'ton	-	-	-

* denotes Thursday's figures

YESTERDAY

Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun.

	C	F			C	F	
Belfast	5	41r		Guernsey	9	48s	
B'ingham	7	45s		Inverness	5	41c	
Blackpool	8	46f		Jersey	10	50f	
Bristol	8	46s		London	9	48s	
Cardiff	9	48c		M'chester	7	45f	
Edinburgh	5	41s		Newcastle	6	43e	
Glasgow	5	41r		R'nldsway	7	45c	

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Thursday: Highest day temp: Guernsey, 14C (57F); lowest day max: Aberdeen, Grampian, 5C (41F); highest rainfall: Buxton, Derbyshire, 1.39 in; highest sunshine: Clacton, Essex, 3.7 hr.

MANCHESTER

Thursday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 10C (50F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 07C (45F). Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, 0.34 in. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 0.2 hr.

GLASGOW

Thursday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 10C (50F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 2C (36F). Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, 0.09 in. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 1.2 hr.

AROUND BRITAIN

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Scarboro	1.0	.17	9	48	rain
Hunstanton	1.3	.11	12	54	cloudy
Lowestoft	0.7	.32	13	55	shower
Sandown	0.8	.16	13	55	shower
Bournemth	1.2	.16	13	55	cloudy
Poole	2.2	.36	14	57	bright
Swanage	1.6	.15	13	55	shower
Weymouth	2.6	.72	13	55	bright
Teignmouth	2.6	.81	13	55	bright
Torquay	2.2	.58	14	57	shower
Penzance	3.1	.06	13	55	bright
Scilly Isles	3.3	.05	13	55	bright
Jersey	1.4	.15	13	55	cloudy
Guernsey	1.1	.02	14	57	cloudy
St Ives	2.7	.31	13	55	bright
Newquay	2.3	-	13	55	cloudy
Minehead	2.4	.25	13	55	shower
B'pool Airpt	0.3	.62	10	50	rain
Douglas	-	.35	10	50	cloudy
B'ham Airpt	0.7	.31	11	52	shower
Bristol (Cnt)	1.2	.04	13	55	shower
Buxton	-	1.39	10	50	rain
Leeds	0.6	.20	11	52	shower
London	2.5	.35	14	57	shower
Manchester	0.2	.24	10	50	shower
N'cstl-n-Tyne	1.9	.06	11	52	bright
Nottingham	0.5	.38	11	52	shower
Aughton	0.8	.27	11	52	shower
Cardiff (Cst)	3.6	.04	13	55	shower
Colwyn Bay	0.1	.44	11	52	shower
Tenby	0.9	.35	12	54	cloudy
Aberdeen	-	.91	5	41	rain
Aviemore	-	.01	7	45	bright
Edinburgh	1.5	.08	10	50	bright
Eskdalemuir	-	.35	8	46	shower
Glasgow	1.2	.09	10	50	cloudy
Stornoway	-	.24	10	50	rain
Wick	0.1	.04	7	45	bright
Belfast	1.8	.04	9	48	cloudy

These are Thursday's figures

LIGHTING-UP TIME

TODAY
London 3.55 pm to 8.05 am
Bristol 4.05 pm to 8.15 am
Edinburgh 3.41 pm to 8.44 am
Manchester 3.52 pm to 8.24 am
Penzance 4.23 pm to 8.20 am

TOMORROW
London 3.55 pm to 8.06 am
Bristol 4.05 pm to 8.15 am
Edinburgh 3.42 pm to 8.44 am
Manchester 3.53 pm to 8.25 am
Penzance 4.24 pm to 8.20 am

TODAY — Sun rises: 8.05 am — Sun sets: 3.55 pm — Moon rises: 3.38 am — Moon sets: 12.29 pm
New Moon December 28

TOMORROW — Sun rises: 8.05 am — Sun sets: 3.56 pm — Moon rises: 4.50 am — Moon sets: 12.50 pm
New Moon December 28

Xmas Day — Sun rises: 8.06 am — Sun sets: 3.56 pm — Moon rises 6.01 am — Moon sets 1.19 pm
New Moon December 28

HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	9.55	5.7	10.33	5.9
Aberdeen	10.03	3.4	10.16	3.4
Milford Haven	2.22	5.3	2.47	5.4
Newquay	1.21	5.4	1.45	5.5
Oban	2.12	3.1	2.25	3.2
Penzance	1.59	3.2	2.17	3.3
Portland	2.21	1.6	2.34	1.5
Portsmouth	7.46	4.0	8.23	3.8
Shoreham	7.19	5.0	8.00	4.8
Southampton	7.28	3.7	7.51	3.6
Swansea	2.23	7.3	2.49	7.5
Tees	——	——	12.32	4.4
Wilton-on-Nze	7.41	3.4	8.26	3.5
XMAS DAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	11.54	6.0	——	——
Aberdeen	11.39	3.7	11.55	3.6
Avonmouth	5.02	11.1	5.25	11.3
Belfast	9.19	3.1	9.29	3.1
Cardiff	4.47	10.4	5.10	10.5
Devonport	3.20	4.8	3.42	4.8
Dover	9.05	5.7	9.32	5.7

TOMORROW	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	11.01	5.9	11.29	6.1
Aberdeen	10.55	3.6	11.05	3.5
Milford Haven	3.24	5.5	3.48	5.6
Newquay	2.21	5.6	2.42	5.7
Oban	3.10	3.2	3.17	3.3
Penzance	3.05	3.3	3.27	3.3
Portland	3.23	1.7	3.43	1.6
Portsmouth	8.39	4.0	9.17	4.0
Shoreham	8.17	5.1	8.53	5.0
Southampton	8.13	3.8	8.45	3.8
Swansea	3.25	7.7	3.45	7.8
Tees	12.45	4.5	1.20	4.6
Wilton-on-Nze	8.46	3.5	9.09	3.6
XMAS DAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Falmouth	2.50	4.6	3.12	4.6
Glasgow	11.00	4.3	10.58	4.3
Harwich	9.43	3.4	10.07	3.5
Holyhead	8.29	4.8	8.49	4.8
Hull	4.14	6.2	4.37	6.4
Ilfracombe	3.52	7.7	4.13	7.7
King's Lynn	4.16	5.3	4.42	5.5
Leith	12.21	4.7	12.44	4.8

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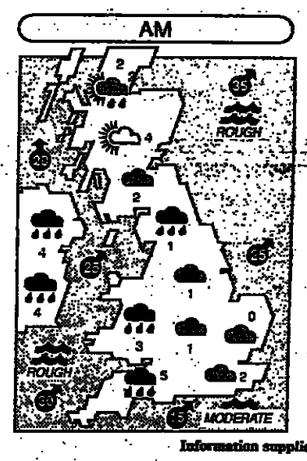
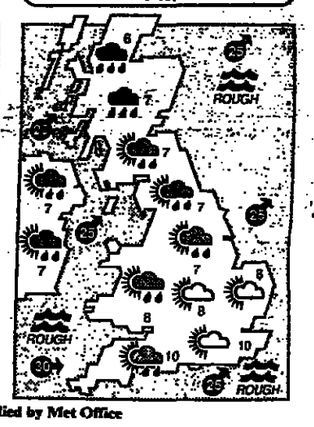
AM



PM



Information supplied by Met Office

To protect the child's identity a model has been used.

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£25.00 can begin to protect a child from abuse.

If you can send us that sum, using the coupon below we know of plenty of children who, for the first time in their lives would like to say 'Thanks, Santa.'

For this lonely, neglected little boy Father Christmas exists.

If you've got £25 to spare, it's you.

I WANT TO HELP A CHILD RIGHT NOW.
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THE TIMES
REVIEW | SPORT
SECTION 2
SATURDAY DECEMBER 23 1989

● TV & RADIO: FULL HOLIDAY GUIDE
● WINE: FORTIFIED AND SPARKLING
● COOKING: SMALL MEALS, BIG IDEAS
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How Christian goodwill has come at last to Bethlehem this Christmas

ERICH LESSING

The three Christian patriarchs: top left, Yeghishe Derderian, Armenian; right, Diodoros the First, Greek Orthodox; above, Michel Sabbah, Roman Catholic

A silver star in a grotto beneath the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem marks the place where Jesus is believed to have been born. To it this Christmas will come the patriarchs of three Christian Churches which have been divided for centuries, now uniting in the hope that 1990 will bring peace at last to the Holy Land. Richard Owen reports

In Jerusalem's walled Old City the great bells in the ancient Christian churches boom out a deafening, time-honoured signal to the faithful: the Roman Catholic patriarch, His Beatitude Michel Sabbah, is about to leave on the five-mile journey up the road to Bethlehem, in the Judean hills, to celebrate Midnight Mass in the very place where Christ was born.

At the Jaffa Gate, close to the patriarchate, which dates back to Crusader times, lorry loads of Christmas trees from Israel's forests are being unloaded for free distribution, the Jewish state's gift to the Christians of the Holy Land. Nearby, Muslim Arab merchants go about their business.

"My Christmas message," the patriarch says, "is one of hope. We can all live in peace in the Holy Land. Look what has happened in Eastern Europe this year — an extraordinary peaceful revolution bringing democracy and justice. With God's help, in 1990 it will be our turn."

He smiles. "And at last there is unity among the Churches here. We stand together."

Sabbah, aged 56, a Palestinian Arab, leads the Roman Catholic Church in Israel and the occupied territories at a critical moment. As Middle East peace moves begin, and the Palestinian uprising, or intifada, enters it third year, he is joining hands with the other two patriarchs — Diodoros the First of the Greek Orthodox Church, which has the largest following among Arab Christians, and Yeghishe Derderian of the Armenian Church, an agile-minded 80-year-old who is increasingly consulted by the other two.

The three lead congregations which feel their minority status keenly: in Israel, the Jewish festivals, not Christian or Muslim ones, are state holidays and dominate the calendar. But far from joining together in adversity, the divided Christians have had a long record of mutual suspicion and hostility.

Bethlehem is the scene not of one Christmas but of three: Catholic, Greek Orthodox and Armenian, while the Anglicans sing carols in Manger Square before holding a separate service at St George's Cathedral in east Jerusalem.

The reasons lie deep in history: the Church of the Nativity was built in the 4th century by the Roman Emperor Constantine, after his conversion to Christianity, over what was once a cave in the woods (the "stable" of the carols), and was rebuilt by the Crusaders. But since the Great Schism of 1054, western and eastern Churches, Rome and Constantinople, have squabbled over control of both the Nativity church in Bethlehem and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem, built over the small hill where the Crucifixion took place and the garden tomb where Jesus was buried.

This year, largely thanks to Sabbah, the three main Churches have agreed to bury their quarrels in the name of humanitarian support for the intifada.

There will still be three separate ceremonies in Bethlehem, beginning with the Catholic Mass tomorrow night (the eastern services will be in January, following the old Julian calendar). The processions from Jerusalem to Bethlehem will be scaled down as a mark of sympathy with victims of violence, and the Arab authorities in Bethlehem have ordered quiet festivities — few coloured lights, no joyous street marches with bands as in the past. Christmas this year has "a special meaning", as one Church official puts it.

Between the western Christmas and the eastern Christmasses in January, Christians of all denominations, reinforced by pilgrims from America and Europe, are planning to link hands around Jerusalem's Old City in a gesture of unity and hope, coinciding with the visit of Archbishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa, who will add to the "special meaning" of this Christmas by attending Midnight Mass tomorrow. The Christmas ceremonies have an unforgettable power and splendour, which offer a vivid reminder of the sources of faith. Many visitors are at first disappointed by Bethlehem: can this rather higgledy-piggledy collection of Arab souvenir shops, hotels and churches be where it all started?

The Church of the Nativity is not what most people expect: in a blank, fortress-like wall facing the parked tourist buses on Manger Square, a small, low doorway leads into an echoing hall lined with 6th-century pillars from the reign of Justinian. At the far end, the representatives of the three denominations light lamps in the gloom, and a bearded Orthodox priest sells Christmas candles and holy water.

Steps lead down into the cave, or grotto, and there, set in the floor, is a 14-point silver star with the inscription: *Hic de Virgine Maria Jesus Christusnatus est.* Nearby, lined with marble, and facing the Altar of the Magi, is the stone trough where Jesus was laid.

Perhaps the very smallness of the place gives it extra intensity and no wonder: at Christmas, the density of the crowds heightens the emotion as the Catholic patriarch arrives and is met by the Arab mayor and the Israeli military governor near the entrance to the Church of St Catherine, the Franciscan church next to the Church of the Nativity.

As midnight strikes and the voices swell, the patriarch takes a figure of the infant Jesus from the altar and carries it down to the grotto in a re-enactment — too literal for some, profoundly moving for others — of an event which changed the course of history 2,000 years ago.

Others find the Armenian ceremony on January 18 as much, if not more impressive, with the Armenian monks in their slightly sinister black cowls accompanying the Armenian patriarch to Bethlehem and celebrating not only Christ's birth but also His baptism in the Jordan and the first miracle at Cana, the turning of water into wine.

But for many the most glorious ceremony is the Greek Orthodox service on January 6. Here, the archimandrites and monks in their long black cloaks and tall black hats walk in procession through the Church of the Nativity, two by two, to the iconostasis, where the patriarch sits on his throne, dressed in gold and white and wearing a mitre glittering with jewels. In the body of the church, the local Arab Christians, some in colourful local dress (in the case of the women, pointed white coifs) stand with the police and military representatives.

Down into the cave goes the great procession, each priest carrying a huge candle, so that the atmosphere becomes thick with smoke and incense drifting to the already blackened ceiling as the liturgy is sung in rhythm to an Orthodox anthem. The patriarch processes three times round the church above, preceded by banners and crosses. The smoke and noise are intense, creating chaos and confusion to a western eye and ear, emphasizing the deep divide between western ideas of Christian rituals and the eastern Churches.

All Christians share a belief that Bethlehem is thrice holy — as the place where Jacob lost Rachel in childbirth, where King David was born, and where Mary gave birth to Jesus. But the Christian guardians of the Nativity have often been at daggers drawn — literally. The principle governing who controls what is enshrined in a document called the Status Quo, issued by the Ottoman Turks in

Continued overleaf

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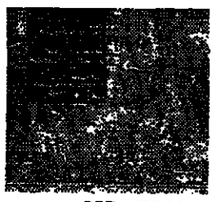
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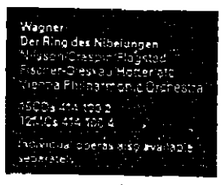

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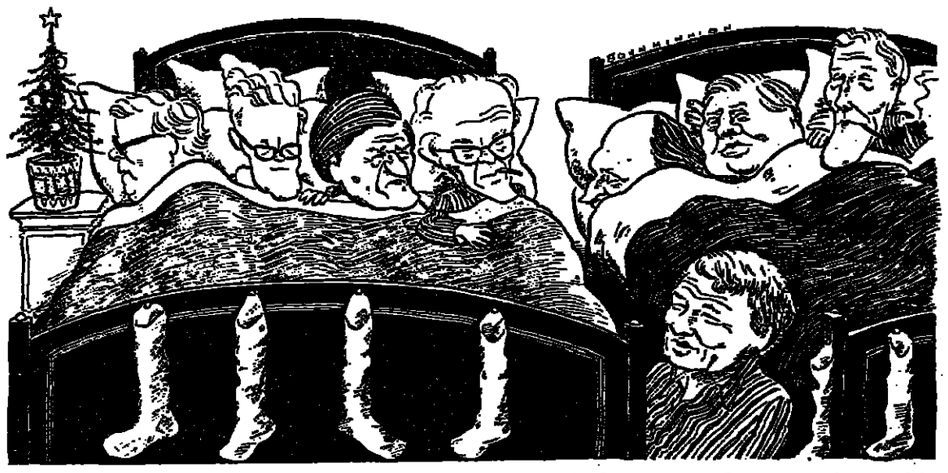

There is a no-presents ban this year at Hickstead Place, to which I am going for Christmas. I daresay those children assembled will get around it but my hostess, Mrs Bunn, was very strict. "If you must bring something, bring food," she said. Later she explained that she meant something like a dozen oranges, but I had already ordered the lobsters. I have to rush to Victoria Station after *Loose Ends*. I only hope the lobsters don't break loose on the Gatwick Express and terrorize the passengers.

I also hope she hasn't abandoned her stocking fillers for guests of all ages. I've found extraordinarily useful things in Lorna's stockings. Mind you, I have collected one lavish stocking already at the Men of the Year lunch held by the Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation (RADAR), containing Sutton's salad seeds, an Access brandy flask, a tube of Colgate "great regular flavour" toothpaste, a RADAR hotplate, two Thorntons chocolates, Classic Green Palmolive soap, Wrigley's Double Mint, a new crunchy Ballisto biscuit, Kleenex, a toothbrush, Aqua shower gel, a Hippy Hippy Shake strawberry flavour Ovaltine sample (just add milk), a packet of Walkers crisps, Boss aftershave and some Outdoor Girl Pink Peer nail polish.

I shall take it all to Hickstead, except the soap, which I am using, and the two chocolates, which I have eaten. It must be a problem finding stocking fillers. What would you get for the great and the good?

For John Major: Pips that squeak.

Sir Geoffrey Howe: a party hat that stays on.

Douglas Hurd: a rubber duck.

Cecil Parkinson: a high-speed train set.

Neil Kinnock: a second prize.

Roy Hattersley: a second helping.

The Speaker: earplugs.

Paddy Ashdown: a few "doughnuts" to give the illusion of a party.

Dennis Skinner: a pair.

Nicholas Ridley: an ashtray.

Gordon Brown: a touch of the DTIs.

Tony Benn: an endless tape.

Eric Heffer: Keir Hardie's cap.

And for Mrs Thatcher: a phrase book that translates the word "No" into every European language.

LAST WEDNESDAY was not a good day. There had been John Birt's Christmas drinks at the BBC on Monday with Janet Street-Porter and Archbishop Runcie coupled handsomely in conversation. Then *Loose Ends* partied on Tuesday and I went on to carols at Claridge's: but on Wednesday I was due to speak at a concert in memory of Joan McMichael Atkins who died this year, 24 years after founding Medical and Scientific Aid for Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. I was also making an artichoke and parsley soup. I like to have a good thick soup on the go at this time of the year. Just as I was finishing the soup David Smart, who organizes MSAVLC, phoned to say he was looking forward to seeing me the next night. "No," I said, "tonight." "No," he corrected me, "tomorrow." I gave in, put down the phone and poured the thick artichoke and parsley soup all over myself.

However, Thursday worked out all right. I sandwiched St Paul's in between David Hatch's BBC radio party and more ravishing carols at Ronnie Driver's dinner at Haberdashers' Hall.

At the concert Julie Christie was doing translations of Vietnamese poems; and Luigi Palumbo, classical guitarist, Judith Fittons, flute, and the Roussel Trio, the Dulwich College string quartet and the WMA singers completed the line-up. I exhumed an old *BBC 3* script. Peter Lewis and Peter Dobereiner wrote *The Song of Lyndon* in the same year that Joan founded her charity. It was the only time Hugh Carleton Greene censored one of our scripts on the three Sixties satire shows. Relations between Downing Street and Portland Place were strained and Vietnam was a particularly sensitive area. I phoned, memoed and even wired the DG but he refused to budge, and verses which savagely attacked Lyndon Johnson's policy and Harold Wilson's complicity in the manner of *Hiawatha* were not performed. So Thursday marked its début.

. . . 'Friends we have but one objective:
Human life must be safeguarded
So today I have directed
We at once resume the bombing
And because our aims are peaceful
We will bomb them twice as often.'
From across the deep blue water
Words from little Harold Wilson
Warmly backed up this decision."

IF MY ATTACHMENT to the *Song of Lyndon* takes me back a quarter of a century, the nostalgic trip I took the next day transported me to 1952. That year Norman Riley was the business manager of *Dick Whittington*, Oxford University's Dramatic Society Pantomime. The other day he was turning out a drawer and came across the old programme. He had the inspired idea of a reunion lunch. He was in time to round up Leonard Webb, now a playwright, the original book writer and director; Philip Dale, now a translator and occasional pianist at the Garden House hotel in Cambridge — then our composer; Raymond Cooke, now a Cliff Adams singer, and the original Dick, Nigel Lawson; now a politician, then a slim chorus boy, and me, now me, formerly fairy queen.

We met in the Crown Passage Vaults and shared whitebait and sausages and mash. Nigel was sparing on the mash and envied Leonard Webb, who arrived wearing the corduroy coat he had worn through rehearsals. Neither Nigel nor I would get halfway into the clothes we wore then. We pressed the late chancellor about his memoirs but he would only say he is about to buy a word processor. I reminded him that Jimmy Carter wiped eight chapters of his autobiography, but Nigel says he is going to take lessons. We appointed ourselves as a steering committee for a proper 40 years' reunion in 1992 with absent friends rounded up. The brokers' men were Wallace Olins, now *the* specialist in designer management (he was abroad) and Bob Gavron, now a publishing magnate (he was lunching at All Souls). The cat (Jeanne Lewis) is in Sweden. I know where two more members of the chorus, Liz Robertson and Dick Chapman are, and surely Deirdre Reid, who did the decor, is now Lady Rosebery. We badly need to find the lyricist, Don Collis, who was a chemist. One of his songs, "More spoils from the oils", sounded prophetic to Nigel, and lots of the lyrics were rattled off verbatim.

"Any Arab with a scarab
His weapon has to yield.
He regards any woman as an
arable field
And they all judge her worth by the
size of her
Down in the tents of Arabia!"

We were obviously determined to be up to date in 1952. There were even knowing references to cocaine; but I prefer this simple joke. I can't recall its context; "What about the Swiss Alps?"

"A wonderful place for a yoyo."

MY ACTING career took a great leap forward on Wednesday just when it looked as if I was in danger of being typecast. After giving my "Awards Ceremony Presenter" for a Thames TV Media serial and taping my "A Radio Interviewer" for insertion in a new musical called *A Graveyard with Lights*, about the two brothers Wilson who went on hunger strike to save the Connaught Theatre, Worthing, I finally got to the Albert Hall to give my "Ham, Son of Noah" before H. M. The Queen and the Princess Royal in *Joy to the World*. I think I had better quote my line since I doubt it will survive the cuts when the programme goes out on BBC at 1.05pm on Christmas Eve. In one of Rosemary Anne Sissons's finest exchanges, Noah (Stratford Johns) says, "Here comes old ham", to which I reply, "Not so much of the old ham, do you mind?" Since you are unlikely to see it I can assure you I gave it full value; but Major Michael Parker's whole spectacular pageant was dominated by the surprise appearance of the Queen mounting the stage surrounded by children of all nations and delivering as a stand-up her very Green Christmas message to the world.

FRANCES EDMONDS

If I were...

If I were Father Christmas, I would be rushing around the North Pole, frantically looking for those elusive last-minute gifts to fill my sleigh. Pausing to contemplate the melting polar ice-caps that used to be my home, I would think of all the ecological questions the next decade's world must try to solve. Despondently, my mind would turn to the dwindling rain forests and the alarming holes in the ozone layer.

But it's Christmas after all, and I'm too old and jolly to succumb completely to the current epidemic of right-on awareness. "Ho, ho, ho," I would laugh to myself, recalling the British Green Party's 15 per cent-vote-yet-no-seat result in last summer's European Parliament elections. Casting aside the Anderton-patented do-it-yourself-random-breath-testing kit I had earmarked for Jeffrey Bernard, I would set about making a merry package of "Proportional Representation" for that nice Mr Icke and the lovely Mrs Parkin. "Perhaps," I would muse over my guaranteed artificial additive-free mince pie, "a whiff of real power might teach these good folk the one enduring truth about British politics. Yes, voters really do care deeply

. . . Father Christmas

and desperately about everything under the sun. But only until they realize that *they* have to pay."

Next I would start wrapping Mrs Thatcher's present, *The Collected Thoughts of Jacques Delors* (original French version), in recycled copies of the European Social Charter. Then suddenly I would snap.

"Enough of this anti-consumerist guilt complex!" I would shout. "Let's really have a spree!" My thoughts would turn immediately to Mr William Waldegrave, the Minister of State at the Foreign Office, recently found buying clothes for his wife. "Fine chap!" I would muse. For him, I would package the entire winter collections of Yves St Laurent and Karl Lagerfeld. "At least," I would think, "that's one Tory minister's wife who won't look like an *Oxfemme fatale*."

Money no object, I would next decide to do my bit for racial and religious harmony. For the Iranian Speaker, Ali Akbar Rafsanjani, I would organize a fortnight's time-share with Salman Rushdie. Let the pair of them sort it out for themselves, I say. To the Queen, the woman who has everything except, perhaps, the in-laws she would choose, I would give a Derby winner, the first English-owned victor since Coronation year.

In the world of sport, I would grant Ted Dexter, chairman of England's cricket selectors, a three-month outbreak of 'flu, geared to hit the West Indian team in February. And in the world of showbiz, I would give that adorable little "neighbour", Kylie Minogue, a well-earned rest . . . for the next 30 years at least.

Still beavering away until the very last minute, I would stop only to wish you all a very happy, a very peaceful and, above all, a very guilt-free Christmas.

William dropped by just as the night was getting serious.

A CHILDHOOD: JIMMY SAVILE

'I was forged in the crucible of want and I consider myself privileged'

by Ray Connolly

To the six-year-old Jimmy Savile the best part of Christmas was the special treat when his mother – the Duchess, as he calls her – would take him into town to look at the toys in the shops. There was never any question of a Christmas present for him and he didn't expect anything, nor was there a chance of ever possessing anything he saw. But none of that mattered.

"So every year we'd go and I'd look at the toys with all the pleasure and joy of knowing they were there but never expecting that they could be mine," he says.

"Today whatever children see they want. But by getting what you want you spoil it. I look back now and think what a joy it was walking around those toy shops and because I wasn't going to get a toy, not in my wildest dreams, they were all mine in my imagination. It was wonderful.

"I was forged in the crucible of want and because of that I consider myself far more privileged than people who had everything."

Born in 1926, the youngest of seven children, he was, he says, a not-again child – "not again" being the expression invariably used when it was announced that his mother was pregnant. His father was a bookmaker's clerk and never earned more than three pounds, 10 shillings a week. Home was a three-storey terraced house in Leeds. "We always had a bed each, although there might be two or three of us in one room."

When he was two he nearly died, and indeed a death certificate was made out for him. "I don't know what was wrong with me. In those days if you were poor you just died. It was no big deal.

"The doctor came and examined me and he was so sure I was going to die he signed my death certificate and left it on the sideboard and advised the Duchess to go for a walk while it happened. So she went off to Leeds Cathedral and left me to her mother."

In the cathedral Mrs Savile found a pamphlet about an Edinburgh girl called Margaret Sinclair and prayed, asking Margaret Sinclair to intercede on her baby's behalf.

Sure enough, when she returned home not only was her son not dead, but he was actually looking much better. Tuppence was invested in a telephone call and the doctor came hot-footing it back to tear up the death certificate. Even among poor people it was not done to make out death certificates while the patient was still alive.

"I just think it was a lack of medical knowledge at the time," Savile says, "but the Duchess thought that it was a miracle. The priest at the cathedral got very excited and took details from her and the doctor and then wrote it all up and gave it to the people who were applying for the beatification of Margaret Sinclair and it was subsequently lodged at the Vatican. She's now Blessed Margaret Sinclair."

School was elementary from four to 14, where he learnt "reading, writing, reckoning-up and the difference between right and wrong. That was all I was ever going to need."

Being poor even had its advantages. Nobody in that area was rich, but Jimmy Savile was poor enough to be entitled to a jar of free malt which the teacher would keep in a cupboard for him, a spoonful a day to keep rickets away, almost free footwear in the form of canvas and rubber-soled sandshoes, and daily free milk.

"I considered myself of some considerable stature because the kids who had more money would have to sit there salivating when I went to the cupboard for the malt – the trick being, I remember, to get as much as possible on to the spoon."

He would also qualify for free days out to Scarborough, and a visit when he was about nine to the Poor Children's Holiday Camp, which was literally a sleeping bag on the floor of a wooden hut in the Yorkshire Dales.

That experience had a marked effect upon him. "I can still distinctly remember coming out of the hut and being struck immobile by the night sky. It was a full moon and everywhere was as bright as day. Remember I'd come from a back street in Leeds in the days before clear air, when everywhere was smoky and dirty. It was so magical I just stood there for ages." Today his idea of heaven is to run alone across those same Yorkshire Dales.

They were a close Roman Catholic family and he is still a frequent churchgoer. We met on a Wednesday morning at his flat near Regent's Park and he was planning to go to mass after I left. "There's a mass at 11.30 around the corner, so it'll give me a great deal of pleasure to go, have a cup of tea on the way back and then off to the BBC for *Jim'll Fix It*. It's not everybody's line of country, but it's mine."

Equally his line of country is the fund-raising his parents taught him as a child, his earliest recollections of his parents' social life being of their organizing whist drives and beetle drives for charities. "In those days you had to make your own entertainment and I realized early on that if you gave people a good time they would pay you and you could then give the money to something."

Since he has been well-known he has discovered that it is possible to put a few noughts on to the amounts of money he is capable of drawing. The results are considerable. This year alone he's run 18 marathons for charity, and at Stoke Mandeville Hospital, where he has an office, he is a one-man fund-raising machine.

Even while he was at school he was interested in music and entertainment, and with the sudden proliferation of all-girl bands during the Second World War he began to make five shillings a week as a drummer with a lady pianist during the band's interval at the Leeds Mecca.

At 14, he got a job as an office boy and then another until it was time to be called up. He hoped to go into the RAF but, as he says, his number came up and he was sent down the mines as a Bevin Boy under the Emergency Powers Act. It was wartime and Britain needed miners. He had no say in the decision.

All the same he enjoyed it. He always enjoyed everything. "I was at South Kirby Colliery in South Elmsall at first. I'd have to walk about a mile and a quarter crouched over from the pit head to where I worked, but the coal face was another mile and a half further on.

"And I'd be there all day, an eight-hour shift, by myself. My job was to sit on a bench and wait for the little train of seven or eight tubs of coal to come along. It was a corner and if the tubs came off the rails I'd have to stop the machinery and somehow get the tubs back on to the rails again.

"That was an excellent job. I started at 13 shillings and ninepence and eventually got to £1 and one shilling a week for a six-day shift."

It was while he was working in the pit that he had his only opportunity to treat his father by sending him to a holiday camp at Scarborough (his mother used to stay with her sister for holidays). It would be about 1948; his father was quite old by this time and not very well. It cost him three pounds, 10 shillings for the accommodation and 30 shillings in pocket money for the week.

"I remember seeing him off and feeling quite euphoric, learning to live by proxy. I suppose it was the same feeling a parent gets when he gives something to a child and knows he's enjoying it, so it's no big deal.

"Unfortunately he didn't live long enough for me to give him anything else, which was a great sadness. The Duchess stuck around a lot longer when money was no object, so she had a marvellous time."

Savile's career as a miner came to an abrupt end shortly after this when he was blown up in a shot-firer's explosion, a limited series of explosions aimed to bring the coal face down. Dragged out, he appeared to be all right at first but had in fact incurred a spinal injury which very quickly meant that he would only walk with the aid of two sticks and had to wear a steel spine jacket to make him stand up straight.

Even this does not seem to have upset him. Not even when he enquired of the girl at Leeds Infirmary how soon it would be before he could walk again and was told dismissively as she looked at his card: "Oh . . . Savile? No, you'll never be able to walk properly again."

"Thank you very much," he said, and walked away on his sticks.

"You have to remember," he says, "that this was wartime and we were used to being told what to do. And actually it wasn't such a bad life. I was getting 16 shillings a week sick pay. I didn't starve."

He might well have accepted his lot but for a moment of self revelation which came one day while hobbling to the bus stop. "As I was going towards the corner shop I saw an old kid walking along with two sticks. So I stood to one side to let him go past. And he stood to one side at the same moment. And I suddenly realized I was looking at my reflection in the shop window.

"At that very moment the bus came and the Duchess got off, and for a split second I saw her expression as she saw her youngest on these sticks. Of course, as soon as she saw me looking she brightened up and said: "Hello, love, where are you going?" But at that moment her face had mirrored my condition. And I decided I'd have to do something about it.

And I did, by mind over matter. When the pain came on, it didn't matter where I was, I'd lie down flat on my back till it passed.

"That taught me a tremendous lesson which I use to this day in the hospitals. I tell everyone, parents, friends and next of kin who bring their child in . . . 'never forget your face is the mirror of their condition'. The patients can't see themselves, but if you let your expression show what you're thinking you frighten them to death."

He was on sticks for more than three years and, unable to work, he began to concentrate more and more on entertainment. The result was, he likes to say, the world's first recorded disco and was held in an upstairs room owned by the Loyal Order of Ancient Shepherds in Leeds.

"I conceived the idea that dancing to gramophone records had to be the ultimate. A pal of mine had contrived to attach the inside of a valve radio to the pick-up arm of a wind-up gramophone so that the sound came out of the radio. And it was loud. Unbelievable.

"So I cut up little pieces of cardboard as tickets and wrote on them 'Grand Record Dance – one shilling'. I sold 11 tickets and put the equipment on the grand piano. It went well for about 40 minutes. We had Glenn Miller, Artie Shaw, Geraldo. Then the wires began to overheat and melt the soldering, and the piano got charred and the sound went off. The Duchess offered to play the piano for us, but her music wasn't our music and that was the end of that.

"But it didn't matter. I'd got 11 shillings in ticket money for the night. I was only getting 16 shillings in sick pay, so I realized that night I was going to be a millionaire.

"I was about 10 or 15 years ahead of my time, and for years I went all over Yorkshire with a bag of old 78s and a wind-up gramophone, but I always knew I was right. There was never any question about it.

"People think I'm a hare. But I've always been a tortoise, really. I never had any ambition when I was down the pit. I was quite happy, always content to wait until things happened.

"I don't believe all this psychological stuff that says you're a bastard because you got frightened by a snake as a child. That's a cop out. The way I see it is you'd just better get on with it and make the best of things. If it doesn't happen for you today it might happen tomorrow."

Savile today and (right) as a child:

"I've always been a tortoise, really"

Photograph by Graham Wood

Craig Brown

This week I enjoyed the particular privilege of being allowed to sit in at the 1990 Forward Planning meeting at the BBC Drama Department.

Leading director Arnos Grove rushed in, a little late. "The damn car's blown up again. Third time this week. Park it outside the house, and whoosh! up it goes." The others nodded sympathetically. Rare was the car in a BBC drama series that did not explode for sinister, unexplained reasons outside the owner's front door.

Senior producer Lancaster Place called the meeting to order and announced that he had an exciting idea in his filing cabinet for the opening scene of his new drama series. He then pulled open a drawer to reveal the naked corpse of a young woman, still warm. "I thought we might kick off the first scene with her. Haunting stuff, eh?"

"But Lancaster, darling, she's appeared in all of your last six dramas – naked corpse, unfeeling morgue attendants, grieving mother, sinister figures in background," exclaimed Primrose Hill, the script editor. "I'm not saying she's not fine in her place, but I've always imagined Anne of Green Gables as a less, well, *stationary* figure."

Leading television dramatist Brent East, an acknowledged master of dialogue, then put his ideas to the panel. "I, er, right you know, like, want, I s'pose you could say, right, are you with me, to, yeah, well," he said, taking a puff of a cigarette.

"Brent's marvellous," whispered Primrose Hill to me, "He speaks as he writes, using all the nuances and rhythms of everyday speech to reveal the sinister undertones of the urban jungle. His *Life of Oscar Wilde* is sure to be one of the highlights of next season."

Suddenly the telephone went. "*Don't touch it anyone, I beg of you don't touch it!!!*" screamed top director Orlop Street, sweat ploughing across his brow.

"Orlop's got this thing about telephones, poor love," whispered Primrose. "It's through working for so long on spooky spy thrillers. For the past 20 years, a phone's never rung in one of his series without someone shouting 'Don't touch it' and getting in a flap, and now he feels he has to do the same."

The phone rang again, and the chairman brushed aside Orlop's warning. Placing his hand over the receiver, he said: "It's Dennis Potter on the line. Says he's sorry he can't be with us, he's got a mild attack of obscure flashbacks, and he'll be on a beach in his childhood watching some mild copulation for quite a while, but to carry on without him." Everyone in the room nodded energetically, making it clear that they knew what was going on.

While the chief location manager was explaining that all the underground car-parks in the South of England were now fully booked for religious programmes, youth programmes, music videos, after-shave advertisements and state-of-the-nation thrillers, and that they would have to find some other location in which to film the forthcoming adaptation of *The Mill on the Floss*, I noticed that the head of drama was battering away at a window while birds pecked at his hair.

"Nothing to worry about, he's just undergoing a Dream Sequence," explained Primrose. "Soon he'll be dipping his nose into his glass of water and drowning repeatedly."

Throughout the meeting, I had noticed two shady figures in mackintoshes standing in the corner of the room, their hats drawn over their faces, their eyes as black as death. "Who are they?" I whispered to Primrose. "Who? Where? I can't see anyone. You must be imagining things," she replied.

This week I enjoyed the particular privilege of being allowed to sit in at the 1990 Forward Planning meeting at the BBC Drama Department.

"Excuse me," whispered Primrose, "I think you're a repeat."

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THE habitat SALE

A STOREHOUSE COMPANY

Christian goodwill comes to Bethlehem

Continued from page 25

1852: property belongs to whoever can prove he last exercised the right of repairing it. As a result, the annual cleaning ritual has often led to physical violence, with Greek Orthodox priests pulling Franciscan monks off ladders and Armenian church officials beating Greek Orthodox worthies with broom handles as arguments break out over where demarcation lines begin and end (the Armenians have the south of the complex, the Catholics the north, and the Orthodox the centre).

This year, for the first time, the three denominations agreed to forgo the cleaning rituals in a bid to cement new ties – a far cry from the days 140 years ago when arguments over where the silver star marking Christ's birthplace should be placed, and by whom, was one of the causes of the Crimean War.

All the more remarkable, then, that the three main denominations should have come closer to one another – and that a largely Muslim Arab revolt should have provided the catalyst.

Outside the Church of the Nativity, symbols of the intifada abound. The Christmas tree on Manger Square, undecorated and unlit, is imprisoned this year in a steel-mesh cage intended to stop teenage Arab protesters throwing stones and Molotov cocktails at the adjacent police station. The Christmas Tree Café next door, like all shops and cafés in Bethlehem, is firmly shuttered. Israeli troops look on, cradling their Uzi sub-machine-guns.

Israel keeps the peace in Bethlehem, as Jordan, Britain and Ottoman Turkey have done before. But what the three patriarchs want the world to see this Christmas is that most Christians in the Holy Land are not western visitors and European priests but Arabs, often invisible to western pilgrims and tourists.

Behind the walls of their homes, Arab Christians are celebrating Christmas with customs imported from the West: even Santa Claus makes an appearance at parties. In Arab Christian living-rooms there are presents beneath Christmas trees, and on Christmas Day families lay on special feasts (elaborate oriental dishes replacing the turkey and Christmas pudding) and visit each other.

There are 50,000 Christian Arabs in the West Bank and Gaza and 115,000 in Israel proper, among 3.5 million Jews and 1.5 million Muslims. Many Muslims join in the family-visiting at Christmas, and Arab Christians repay the compliment on Islamic festivals – another link underlying the way Arab Christians are joining the Muslims in the cause of Arab nationalism.

Bethlehem is not in "Israel proper", as Nazareth is, but on the West Bank of the Jordan, occupied by Israel since 1967. It has been transformed from a sleepy, quiescent tourist attraction into one of the "hottest" spots in the intifada. The phrase "Christ's Church militant here on earth" is acquiring new meaning. "You might say that rulers of the Holy Land, from the Ottoman Turks to the Israelis, have counted on our disunity," one Catholic priest says.

"In the past, the three patriarchs used to meet perhaps one or two times a year," another Church official reveals. "With the intifada, this has become six, seven times a year. And the three denominations are now in constant touch through special joint consultative committees."

Will the new-found unity and growing militancy of the Church survive beyond Christmas and into 1990? Much could depend on Sabbah. Because he is Palestinian he is in the limelight, but because he answers to the Vatican he is to some extent at the mercy of policy decided in the Holy See.

So far, Pope John Paul II has expressed sympathy for the Palestinian cause, while at the same time feeling his way towards a possible establishment of relations with the Jewish state. This, the Vatican argues, would give Catholics greater influence in the Middle East.

The appointment of Sabbah as patriarch, breaking a long line of Italian patriarchs, is in itself a sign of the way the wind is blowing. He says the message of Christmas is that Israel's justified need for security must be balanced by full rights for the Palestinians, with the international powers helping to bring this about.

Sabbah agrees with Evelyn Waugh in *The Holy Places*: "Jerusalem is the core of one's religion, and here one realizes fully, perhaps for the first time, that Christianity did not strike its first root in Rome or Canterbury, but in the Levant. Our Lord was born into a fiercely divided civilization, and so it has remained. But our hope must always be for unity."

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

Roger Boyes reports on the Gdansk shipyards, where a product of the American dream is hoping to conjure up some late Christmas magic

Christmas fairy-tale, Polish dream

ROBIN JACQUES

GDANSK 23 DEC 1989 POLAND

Father Christmas will be coming late to Gdansk this year. All good Poles, even hard-drinking shipyard workers, believe in the bringer of gifts and, more, in the Christmas fireside fables: in the alchemy of gold, in the transformation of poor but beautiful women into rich and graceful queens, in the cinematic happy ending. Barbara Piasecka Johnson, the hard-up Polish girl turned American multi-millionairess, fell easily into these mythic categories when last spring she offered to buy the Lenin shipyards, cradle of Solidarity, which had just been declared bankrupt by the communist government.

Jobs would be saved and the place that gave birth to the Solidarity revolution of 1980, that thrust Lech Walesa on to the world stage, would be converted into a model of modern capitalism. "I want to send a signal to the West," Johnson said after signing the letter of intent. "I want to show that you can invest profitably in Poland." A signal, then, not only for Poland but for the whole of eastern Europe, as it dismantles communism and looks to the West for money and ideas. Can capitalism work in systems so thoroughly battered by communist central planning?

The dream was supposed to become reality by Christmas; from the new year the shipyard workers were to be part of the Barbara Piasecka Johnson yards and Lenin's name would be stripped from the gates. But slowly business has intruded on sentiment. Deliveries of everything from steel plate to porthole windows are months behind schedule. How is one to privatize a state-owned concern when there is no reliable estimate of the assets? How to plan ahead when the whole future of the Polish steel industry is under question? How, at a time of 600 per cent inflation, is one to pay workers a competitive wage? Thousands of workers have left the yards — only a dollar-based salary will bring them back — but how will the rest of Polish industry react if Johnson starts to pay workers in dollars?

Johnson says she needs more time — until April at least. There was a spectacular bust-up with Walesa, since happily resolved. But some of the sentiment has gone out of the relationship. A few months ago, they would maintain a flirtatious banter. Johnson, heir to the Johnson & Johnson baby soap fortune, would fly every month or so from her New Jersey estate and camp out in the grim, modern Hevelius Hotel which overlooks the shipyards. There would be perhaps 12 hours of solid negotiations, and then she and Walesa would go on a brisk route march around the yards. Walesa turned on his charm: "A beautiful woman like you . . . what a pleasure it is to be at your side . . . now this is the welding unit — it should be robotized, of course, like in West Germany . . . how charming you look in your safety helmet." Now the patter has stopped, and Walesa is asking for job guarantees, firm financial commitments, money up front.

Gdansk, though, still loves this strange, complicated woman. Perhaps because, although she has benefited from the American dream, she does not appear entirely happy and has, in the manner of a modern East-West fairy-tale, come home to realize a Polish dream. She is 52 now, the daughter of farmers in Staniewicze near the Soviet border. She was a bright girl, studied art history at Wroclaw University, and won a Vatican scholarship to write a thesis in Italy. Encouraged by her father, she defected and moved to America where, in the Cinderella version of the story, she arrived with $100, a few broken phrases of English and not a friend in the world. That was in 1968. Poles, like Italian immigrants before them, respond well to such circumstances. New arrivals are taken under the wing of more established immigrants; illegal jobs, cheap apartments are pooled. "Basia," said one of her new acquaintances, "there's a Polish cook in a big house in New Jersey who needs an assistant." The big house in question belonged to the 73-year-old heir to the Johnson & Johnson fortune, J. Seward Johnson. Basia, who was barely able to fry an egg, was given the job by the second Mrs Johnson, and three years later became the third Mrs Johnson.

Even by the modest culinary standards of New Jersey, Basia was a disaster in the kitchen and she was made a chambermaid. The lord of the manor took a shine to her. Seward Johnson was later to recall: "I popped into the kitchen and saw Basia. I hear my wife has hired a pretty new maid. She smiled and I was smitten." Basia's version is that she could not assemble a proper English sentence in time, so she merely smiled politely. After 10 months she had saved enough — £4,000 — to enrol in an English course, so she quit. Soon afterwards a Johnson & Johnson limousine rolled up outside her bedsitter and Seward, by all accounts a wilful man, offered her a new job as an art adviser. Together they toured the world picking up pieces for the Johnson collection. In São Paulo, Seward proposed. They were married for 12 years until Seward Johnson died, aged 87, of cancer.

Christmas fairy-tales, of course, contain a secondary but important cast of evil stepmothers, wicked queens and poisoned apples. Basia, still reeling from the death of her husband, found herself sucked into one of the dirtiest legal battles of the 1980s. The most sordid legal cases are not, as one might think, divorces or surrogate births, nor even British libel trials, but contested wills. Five of the Johnson stepchildren were left nothing under the will, while Basia was given something approaching £500 million. Platoons of private detectives were deployed on both sides. Her lawyers tried to show that the children had been cut off with good reason and came up with a picture of a decadent brood — typically, one of the daughters had publicly accused her second husband of having a homosexual affair with their chauffeur. The children, meanwhile, attempted to show that Basia had manipulated her weakened, senile husband. But they discovered no secret lovers, and Basia Johnson succeeded in convincing the court that Seward had banished his children from earlier drafts of the will when he was indisputably in control of his senses.

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Basia, creature of the American dream, was also polluted by it. Some strings — above all her $30-million, 140-acre home called Jasna Polana — still bound her to America, but she turned more and more to Poland. Here she could gauge more precisely the character and intentions of her partners. She could deal directly with people, not through a mist of lawyers.

Her influence stretches everywhere in the non-communist corners of Polish culture. It might be lobbying to have Franco Zeffirelli's film about Jesus Christ shown on Polish television, or sponsoring a symposium on Polish-Jewish relations, or a breast cancer diagnosis clinic in Gdansk.

It is an open secret that she sent suitcases of dollars to Solidarity during martial law.

Now she is faced with the most complex task of her life. Poland can be saved by capitalism, she is sure of that. She is a fervent anti-communist, a practising Catholic — she has built an exquisite chapel on top of the underground fall-out shelter in her New Jersey garden. Indeed, her idea to buy the yards came after a Corpus Christi procession in Gdansk last year, a kind of divine intervention she would explain later.

But the romance of the shipyards ends at the gates. Inside it is an industrial wasteland.

Jagged pieces of metal stick up from the ground, an old rusting tub gathers rain water, piles of wood rot on the dockside, dogs sniff at paint cans, trolley tracks lead nowhere.

It is true that shipbuilding is heading for a boom — but only modern, low cost, highly adaptable yards stand to gain. The whole structure of the Gdansk yards is wrong.

The Soviet Union is the main customer and pays roubles for ready-made ships, while western contractors pay partly on signature and partly on delivery. The yard, therefore, depends on bank loans until delivery and the banks in any case cannot lend them enough to buy new equipment. Interest payments are mounting. To complete some of the Russian ships, the yards have had to import western parts for dollars and pounds — that is bad business. Somehow Johnson has to untangle this economic nonsense.

Meanwhile, in Gdansk the Christmas celebrations will be more meagre than expected. Few of the yard workers know whether they will have a job left after the restructuring. Many have already made their decision — they are trying to emigrate from Poland, joining the queue of 40,000 or more outside the US embassy in Warsaw. Diplomats, overwhelmed with applications, try to steer them elsewhere, to countries with shipbuilding traditions, such as Sweden and Britain, but they are only interested in America which, as Johnson can attest, is the land of golden opportunity, the land of Christmas fairy-tales.

RESTAURANT AND CATERING GUIDE

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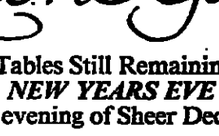
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CAMPUS

Stephen Silk pleads for an end to the student march as a form of protest

Put your feet up

Please can 1989 be the last year in which we have to endure the student march. In a year in which taking to the streets has become the most potent of political weapons, this might seem perverse. But while students in eastern Europe led a united people, student marches in this country serve only to alienate us from ours. How many Glaswegians jangled their keys in appreciation of a national loans demonstration held in their city earlier this term? Numbing indifference if a demo goes well, and widespread condemnation if the police get involved, would seem to be more typical.

Maeve Sherlock, the president of the National Union of Students, would no doubt disagree. The High Street banks' refusal to administer the Government's student loans plan could be seen as a great victory for the 20,000 students who converged on Glasgow earlier this term, for a march to show their antipathy towards the scheme that they see as discriminating against those from working-class backgrounds. Those 20,000 are, of course, at liberty to continue deluding themselves. Their views are being listened to, but only because of the economic power that students possess, not because a march or any other form of "increasing awareness" will provoke huge waves of public sympathy. Indeed, if anything, the public is resolutely in favour of student loans — try justifying the fact that you are *given* more than £2,000 a year so that you can start on salaries double those of your non-graduate colleagues, and see how many line up on your side in the vacation job tea-room. The marketing people have recently discovered "the students" as a category worth aiming their products at. It is high time we discovered ourselves. The NUS as a trade union has shown itself to be painfully inept. The NUS as a pressure group, threatening to withdraw its patronage from (in this case) the banks, could be very powerful.

If anything, the public is resolutely in favour of student loans

And who, after all, ever enjoyed a march? As a device whereby the middle class pretended to be the working class, it was never very believable. As an opportunity for the Socialist Workers Student Society to goad policemen, it was highly counterproductive. And as a vehicle for the lonely Eighties rebel to imagine that these are still the Sixties, it was entirely delusory. The university of Newcastle upon Tyne, admittedly no hotbed of rebellion this year, sent a pitiful 29 of its 8,000 students to protest in Glasgow.

The left-wingers will bemoan the fact that their effectiveness is now measured by their economic worth as a consumer rather than by their numbers on the streets. But I, for one, am glad that I can vote with my bank account and not with my feet.

Newcastle University has a "Readers' Lounge", a deceptively comfortable café with pleasant and cheerful staff contained within the library building. The library is one of the most modern in the country, completed just before the Government's first education cuts began to bite. Just along the wall from the entrance to the Lounge is a plaque proclaiming that the building won a design award from the Standing Conference of National and University Libraries (SCONUL).

The SCONUL panel should be shot. Were I a final year student working in any other university library in the country, the temptation to stop studying and go for a coffee would be tempered with the thought of trudging across campus to the refectory. Here in Newcastle, the café sits underneath me as I work, offering the full range of stotties (the standard Geordie lunch), confectionery and drinks. No need to put your coat on, no need to get wet, no need even to find a friend, since they sell newspapers which you can happily hide behind. In short, the Readers' Lounge changes the 2-1 into a definite 2-2. Can the SCONUL people put their hands on their hearts and say that any library which makes studying that difficult should be given an award?

There were only a few of us left there this week, almost two weeks after the effective end of term. The first year tends to bolt home as soon as the last lecturer has cracked the last valedictory Christmas "joke". The second year, in the first term out of Halls of Residence, does stay up over the weekend to clear the debris from that end-of-term party, but then returns to mum, dad and the newly-appreciated joys of a full fridge, a radiator that works and a washing machine.

And the third year, well, us third years hang around listlessly. The work-ethic-come-guilt-complex, that last appeared after those awful mock A level results, re-emerges, forcing us to continue making the daily pilgrimage to the library. The fact that it is only our understanding of *The Times* cryptic crossword that improves rather than "the importance of the emergence of a Labour movement between 1867 and 1906", is somehow irrelevant.

So, oh future employer, whose unfilled application form sits buried on this desk, when you see "Readers' Lounge" written under the "extenuating circumstances" column of any sensible Newcastle applicant, scoff not. Just remember, our library won a design award.

● *Stephen Silk is a student at Newcastle University.*

Win a personal computer

Students in higher education and sixth forms are invited to enter *The Times* Campus Critic competition, for which the top prize is a personal computer system worth almost £4,000. The winning critic will be the student who, in the opinion of the judges, writes the best review of any entertainment performance, either broadcast or open to the public between December 16 and January 13. The competition is intended to offer students an entertaining challenge during the Christmas holiday. Reviews may be of television, radio, theatre, film or music performances.

The first prize is the Zenith SupersPORT 286 portable computer plus an Epson LQ400 printer. Second prize is a Zenith Z-159 personal computer plus Epson LX400 printer. Third prize is a Pilot FJ1000 fountain pen. There are additional prizes of Collins CD records and 10 runners-up prizes.

The competition is open to students up to the age of 24 (on January 31, 1990) who are in full-time education. Entries should not be longer than 600 words and should include details of where and when the performance took place or was broadcast.

Entries should be sent to *The Times*, Campus Critic (Comp), PO Box 486, 1 Pennington Street, London E19XN. Every entry should include the writer's name, home address, college address, telephone number and age. Closing date is January 31.

● *Full list of prizes and rules (The Times, December 9).*

EATING OUT

One man's restaurant guide

This selection of restaurants does not purport to be a list of the best in Britain, merely the best of the 375 or so that I've written about during the past three and a half years. Thus, you'll look in vain for, say, Raymond Blanc's superb Manoir Aux Quat' Saisons because I've not covered it and, equally, you'll not find, say, the Connaught or the Ritz or Boulestin because they didn't make the grade. On the other hand, there are a pizzeria, Japanese diners and Cantonese cafés. Can these places really be superior to the mighty Connaught? I'd submit that they can, and that, indeed, they are — because they do what they do better than the Connaught does what it does. Remember: reputation is a bully.

This is a digest from a newspaper, it is not really a guide (though it is likely that at some point in the undistant future a selection of my columns and the entire directory will be published as a sort of guide). The difference between my stuff and a guide is that guides are done by committee. Guide A uses a "committee" of readers whose (possibly commercially-interested) recommendations are sometimes followed by editorial inspection, sometimes not — there is no consistant standard; none the less Guide A is properly written even if it does believe Devon is the centre of the universe. Guide B is composed by paid inspectors with — oh woe! — a "catering background". Guide C is forever trying to second-guess its French parent and thus acts with pusillanimous caution. The big claim made for annual guides is that they are up to date: a cursory glance at the current bunch shows that this is not invariably so.

I make no such rash claim for this page; however, we've done our best to ensure that it's accurate in that regard as it is in others. The opinions are mine alone and so may be presumed to possess some sort of consistency — it may, of course, be in wrongheadedness or patent prejudice that they are consistent. Still, the fact that I am — and I have people who'll back me up here — a human male and not a committee/data processor/central collator should mean that a single standard has been applied. I refuse to fall into the trap of favouring (or pitying) establishments because they are in the back of beyond or, contrarily, of deprecating them because they have been hyped to the skies.

Stars — out of a maximum of 10 — are for cooking rather than swags and chandeliers. As usual, prices given are for two — with aperitifs and modest though not "house" wine in the case of restaurants of vinous countries; with tea in the case of Chinese ones and so on. Dishes are mentioned only as an indication of the repertoire, they will probably have changed. Prices may have changed too, they usually go up. Always phone first. Never be afraid to complain.

Jonathan Meades

★★★★★

L'Arlequin
123 Queenstown Road, London SW8 (01-622 0555)
A restaurant that has always been pretty good has transformed itself into a great one. The expansion of the premises has coincided with a kindred expansiveness in Christian Delteil's cooking. There are red wine sauces with bass and mullet, the lamb is probably the best you'll ever taste, the sorbets and ice-creams are unbeatable. Delteil's stuffed cabbage raises that humble peasant dish to undreamt-of heights — it is one of the best dishes in Britain. The wines are impressive and aren't cheap; Madame Delteil runs the front of house with real aplomb. £90 (£40 at lunchtime).

Chez Nico
35 Great Portland Street, London W1 (01-436 8846)
Nico Ladenis's most opulent restaurant yet is the setting for what may be his finest cooking yet. The invention is manifest, the execution is faultless, the taste is sure, the conviction is total. Every dish is composed of numerous complementary flavours, generously served, and altogether splendid. Duck confit with cep sauce and two kinds of potato; tournedos Rossini with a cake of celeriac that has been cooked with smoked pork to enhance its flavour; fantastical sweets in blinding colours. The wines are pricey and perhaps predictable. £120.

Harvey's
2 Bellevue Road, Wandsworth Common, London SW17 (01-672 0114)
Marco Pierre White is a major league chef, not merely in British but in European terms. Though his menu is written in English, his cooking is generically akin to that of the modern French masters and derives largely from French

regional dishes re-interpreted with a virtually unsurpassable flair and dedication. He improves on Tante Claire's pig's trotter stuffed with morels, for instance. His foie gras dish of that liver sandwiched between potato pancakes is amazing. The sweets are sumptuous, the cheeses a bit on one note. The wine list goes on improving. £80.

★★★★½

Chewton Glen
Christchurch Road, New Milton, Hampshire (0425 275341)
Despite a rather unpromising setting in the sprawl of outer Bournemouth, this sets the standard for all British "country house" hotels. The service is astonishing. The cooking is luxury hotel stuff but done with a flair and talent that is rare: scallops with shredded mangetouts and butter sauce; raviolis of fennel; *millefeuille* of salmon and spinach; sweetbreads with vinegar sauce; marvellously kept cheeses; terrific puddings. The wines are by no means overpriced and there are numerous good bottles for about £12. At dinner two will pay about £90, lunch is less.

The Four Seasons
Inn on the Park, Hamilton Place, London W1 (01-499 0888)
Flashy hotel dining room with remarkable cooking by Bruno Loubet. His original and thoroughly delicious dishes include scallops deep-fried inside thin envelopes of potato, mullet with aubergine purée and a sensational cumin sauce, orange marmalade soufflé. The mark-ups on the wines are insolently greedy and two are unlikely to escape for less than £120.

Le Gavroche
43 Upper Brook Street, London W1 (01-408 0881)
The various reputations are justified. The rather *ancien régime* meat cookery is notable: the daube of beef is massive and comforting and possesses a depth of flavour that recalls a different age. The service is marvellous and there is an awful lot of it. The prices, especially of the wines, are frightening. The frivolity of "experimental" cooking is totally shunned; this cooking is based in classical taste and is without gimmicks. The *tarte tatin* is the best you'll ever taste. At lunch two might just get out for £65 to £70. In the evening £140 is nearer the mark.

Gidleigh Park
Chagford, Devon (06473 2367/68/69)
Sean Hill's cooking at this beautifully sited mock-Tudor hotel on the edge of Dartmoor breaks the "country house" hotel mould of witless sybaritism and flashy prodigality. His cooking isn't rustic, but has tendencies that way. His dishes taste of something, and he is not timid about keeping things simple: brains with brown butter, grilled scallops with lentils and coriander. And when he does get more complicated the results are breathtaking: sweetbreads with an intense morel sauce, steak with potent grain mustard sauce. Sweets and cheeses are good too, and the wines are outstanding, notably in the Californian section. £70.

Kensington Place
201 Kensington Church Street, London W8 (01-727 3184)
Highly impressive brasserie which looks good, tastes great but sounds loud. If you can put up with the noise you will be rewarded with some of London's best cooking at knock-down prices. Rowley Leigh won *The Times* Restaurant of the Year Award in 1988 for Le Poulbot and has brought to the middle price range a tremendous flair and invention. *Foie gras* with sweetcorn pancake is memorable, and so are potato salad with truffles, the various salt cod dishes, *bolito misto*, the sweets and the cheeses. The fairly brief wine list is well chosen, and includes some real bargains. £50.

Markwick and Hunt
43 Corn Street, Bristol 1 (0272 262658)
Spectacularly fine cooking in a central Bristol basement. This is one of the most congenial restaurants in the UK and certain of its dishes are a match for those of anywhere in Europe: guinea fowl with Calvados and cream could not be improved; the house terrine (the idea might sound frightful) is as good a bit of *fromage de tête* as you'll ever get. The wine list is very special indeed, notably in Rhônes and Burgundies. Great cheeses, totally amiable service. £55-£70.

Stephen Bull
5-7 Blandford Street, Marylebone, London W1 (01-486 9696)
Impressive cooking by an owner-chef who has turned his back on *haute cuisine* (he had a Michelin star at Lichfield's in Richmond) and who has gone in for a sort of super-bistro style. Duck with red wine, mullet with lentils, cod with herby crust and garlic sauce, prune and Armagnac tart — all these are perfectly executed. It's great grub rather than high art, but it's by no means artless. The cheeses are good and so are the generously priced wines. The room is delightful, and the service is pretty much on the ball, if a bit harried. £45-£55.

Tante Claire
68 Royal Hospital Road, London SW3 (01-352 6045)
One of the finest French kitchens in London but one of the least consistent. Some of Pierre Koffman's cooking is sensational: warm oysters with marinated salmon, *foie gras* salad, a massive ravioli filled with squid, cold mullet fillets with salad, salmon trout with a herb crust. But, equally, his pig trotter stuffed with sweetbreads and morels may be insipid, a piece of boiled beef flavourless. And the fashion for Oriental herbs does not seem to produce happy results here. Art-deco-ish décor, with smooth and slightly pompous service and serious prices. £110.

Alastair Little
49 Frith Street, London W1 (01-734 5183)
Austere café — just the job for minimalist hoddies and design-conscious truck drivers. Terrific cooking though, by the former Page 3 boy of the gastropom world. The menu changes twice daily and the eclecticism (north Italian, Danish, Japanese) might suggest indecision, but Little takes it all on board, gives everything his own sure and gimmickless twist, and is completely in control of his inventions and materials. Fairly priced wines, utilitarian though friendly service. £70.

La Bastide
50 Greek Street, London W1 (01-734 3300)
Nicolas Blacklock is probably the greatest ally that French provincial cooking has in London. His pretty, rather formal restaurant offers a monthly changing regional menu which frequently includes rare dishes — a *potée* from Champagne, for instance, containing heart; cassoulet; pork and prune dishes from the Loire; a daube of beef and lamb with noodles. Also a non-changing menu of more refined dishes such as a marvellous *coublac*-like confection of sole and oysters in buttery pastry. Impressive French regional wines and selection of *eaux de vie* and Armagnacs. £45.

Bibendum
Michelin House, 81 Fulham Road, London SW3 (01-581 5817)
Elegant and fashionable restaurant which raises the bistro and brasserie dishes of the day before yesterday to heights they never scaled then. Some of Simon Hopkinson's sauces err on the side of over-emphasis, but the majority of the classic dishes are spot on: *tête de veau, oeufs en meurette*, fine steaks, outstanding beef daube, outstanding *tarte fine aux pommes*. Overpriced but undeniably impressive wines. £100.

The Carved Angel
2 South Embankment, Dartmouth, Devon (08043 2465)
The cooking is Anglo-French in the best sense, with Tuscan and Catalan accents. This eclecticism produces earthy dishes such as lamb with croquettes of seaweed, battered offal, grilled *chèvre* with *brioche* — all sound ordinary enough, but accomplished with flair and taste; the kitchen's technique is to dissemble its technique. The view over the Dart estuary is gorgeous and so are the wines, which are particularly strong in minor Rhônes that yield major pleasure. Tremendous British cheeses. £68.

Cibo
3 Russell Gardens, London W14 (01-371 6271)
Very exciting Italian cooking in a decorative hodgepodge across the rail tracks from Olympia. It vies with the River Café for supremacy among London Italian restaurants, not least because it has nothing to do with the debased traditions of that stagnant backwater of the catering trade. The kitchen combines unfussy innovation with simply prepared classics, and reminds us that Italy is a neighbour of Austria. Among the many excellent dishes from a frequently changing menu are: raw marinated salmon, tuna and scallops, grilled Asiago cheese with sweated sweet peppers, marvellously light *gnocchi* with braised rabbit, cèps fried with garlic, beef with stewed cèps, mullet with extra virgin olive oil and garlic. The vegetables are inventive. The portions are generous. The all-Italian wine list is generously priced and well chosen. £78.

Homewood Park
Hinton Charterhouse, near Bath, Avon (0225 723731)
The friendliest and most comforting of "country house" hotels. The early Victorian building overlooks the Avon valley. The staff are remarkable and the cooking is of real distinction — substantial dishes are given a light touch and the results are commendable. Lightly smoked haddock is done with lentils that have been cooked with bacon, lamb is given a hazelnut crust and is served with a potato and cream gratin so unctuously delicious it deserves to be a course on its own. The wines are impressive. £50 lunch, £70 dinner.

McCoy's
The Cleveland Tontine, Staddlebridge, Northallerton, North Yorkshire (060 982 671)
Some of Tom McCoy's cooking in this one-off restaurant competes with the best in Britain. Other dishes are less clever. The stuff to

go for includes langoustine raviolis, Bresse pigeon with leeks, veal kidney with mustard sauce, *foie gras* with grapes stewed in Madeira, just about any of the sweets. The dining room is sumptuous, sort of jazz age comfortable. For a grand restaurant — and it is no other kind of restaurant — it is endearingly laid-back. The wines are mostly French, mostly good, and there is always an interesting load of bin ends and half bottles. £65-£70.

Midsummer House
Midsummer Common, Cambridge (0223 69299)
An elegantly done out former park-keeper's house on the banks of the Cam. The wine list leaves much to be desired — reasonably priced Australian and French regional wines, for instance. But the grub is spot on: quails with a forcemeat stuffing and a fine *jus*; monkfish done in fish mousse and spinach; beefy beef with a beefier sauce; fairly sound cheeses and excellent *crème brûlée*. £45-£120.

The Oak Room
Le Meridien, Piccadilly, London W1 (01-734 8000)
Fabulously opulent Edwardian baroque dining room with brilliant French cooking — sea bass with a mousse of *foie gras* and salmon, beef with lactarius mushrooms and spinach. There are rarely mistakes of either taste or technique, but portions tend to the miserly and mark-ups on the impressive wines are greedy. Nevertheless, it is the finest of London's grand hotel restaurants by quite a margin, and an unmitigated treat — if you are not paying. £120.

One Ninety Queensgate
190 Queensgate, London SW7 (01-581 5666)
Self-consciously earthy cooking, indebted to the currently modish *cuisine du terroir* and generally very good. Chef Antony Worrall-Thompson serves pulses with just about everything: lentils with *foie gras*, lentils with lamb, soissons beans with mullet and a meat reduction and fried *foie gras* (much better than it sounds). Happy service, animated punters who are, unsurprisingly, enjoying themselves. Terrific wine list includes 20 pudding wines and many little-known French regional bottles. £85.

Pebbles
1 Pebble Lane, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire (0296 88622)
Confident, rich and assertive dishes cooked with great élan. Sweetbreads and lobster with two sauces and noodles, pigeon breast with *foie gras* and sweetbreads, asparagus *feuilleté* with asparagus mousse, sumptuous sweets. Uninteresting wines. £75.

Redmond's at Malvern View
Cleeve Hill, nr Cheltenham, Gloucestershire (024 267 2017)
Redmond Hayward made his name with a little restaurant in Cheltenham. He and his wife have now taken over a modest hotel outside the town on the Cotswold escarpment. The views are terrific and so is the cooking — it is assured, restrained, original and delicious. Skate *feuilleté* with ginger and lime butter sauce, beef fillet with garlic purée and parsley and mushroom sauce, chicken with vanilla and orange, goat's cheese ravioli with tomato and garlic, hot banana soufflé, lemon tart with honey sauce. Commendable cheeses, unusual wines from the "other" American states. £55-60. There are also reasonably priced rooms.

River Café
Thames Wharf, Rainville Road, London W6 (01-381 8824)
Part of a complex of former industrial buildings converted by the architect Richard Rogers for his own practice, this spartan canteen-like dining room serves arguably the finest Italian food in London. One of the reasons for this is that neither Ruth Rogers nor Rose Gray, who cook here, is Italian. The recipes they use and improve on are homely ones, mainly Tuscan and Piedmontese. The ingredients they use are rustic and allowed to speak for themselves. *Bollito misto*, salads, rare beef with herby green sauce, bean soup, tomato and bread soup — all these are splendid, and so are the wines, and so is the setting. Now open for dinner as well as lunch. £60.

Thackeray's House
85 London Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent (0892 511921)
The novelist's house is actually a large tile-hung cottage. It's smart without flashiness, amiable, efficient. The cooking is painstakingly considered, well balanced, intensely flavoured but not over rich. Nor is it overdressed — good ingredients are not drowned by heavy saucing. Hot sea bass pâté, pheasant with cèps, hare with a remarkable juniper sauce and mace-steeped prunes, fish soup, mullet, veal with shallots, cream and vinegar — these are fine dishes. The wines are mostly French and not overpriced. £80.

★★★½

Al San Vincenzo
52 Upper Mulgrave Road, Cheam, Surrey (01-661 9763)
Tiny and original restaurant in a row of suburban shops. The Neapolitan cooking has nothing to do with the conventions of London "Italian" catering. Vincent Borgonzolo uses good ingredients and, unlike most Italian cooks, is not afraid to adapt traditional recipes: veal stuffed with mozzarella and ham is authentically Neapolitan, the accompanying sauce owes much to French practice. Sweets are inventive, cheeses far beyond the usual dismal selection of dolcelatte and dolcelatte. £50.

The Blue Elephant
4 Fulham Broadway, London SW6 (01-385 6595)
Offshoot of Brussels's top Thai restaurant — the cookery is mediated by Belgian nous. It is thus far from the peasant-based gear of most Thai places. Grilled scallops, fish cakes and satay owe more to Belgium than to Thailand. Good lamb with ginger and garlic, and beef with chilli and baby aubergines. The place is jungle-thick with plants and the service is by boys in martial uniform. Expensive wines. £60.

Burt's
42 Dean Street, London W1 (01-734 3339)
An elegant establishment, all battleship grey and white, and predominantly devoted to fish and vegetable cooking, though unreconstructed carnivores can get their fix here if they really must. But that would be to miss the point. The fish is outstanding: mullet with a potato galette and marinated salmon with shellfish tempura. The veg cookery is also exemplary and should be a lesson to all restaurants negligent in this department; particularly notable are ravioli of diced veg with a butter-based sauce. The puddings are light and delightful. The wines include a number of rarely seen bottles such as a Pinot Noir from Savoie. Good service and a generally pleasant atmosphere. £90 plus.

Capital Hotel
22 Basil Street, London SW3 (01-589 5171)
Small Knightsbridge private hotel with swish elegant dining room and mostly congenial service. Philip Britten, sometime number two to Nico Ladenis, cooks some way from his master's shadow. Excellent sweetbreads with tomato, basil and olives, good scallop *feuilleté*. Justly reputed wines for the well-heeled. £100.

Cavaliers
129 Queenstown Road, London SW8 (01-720 6960)
Opulent, extravagant, sumptuous cooking. Every dish attempts to be a *tour de force* and most succeed. Superb pastry features strongly — with red cabbage and pine nuts, with lobster, with goat's cheese. Dishes are composed of countless different ingredients which tend to work better together than individually. The place isn't exactly a bundle of fun, more a would-be temple of gastronomy. The wines are expensive, but not greedily marked up. £84.

The Champany Inn
Nr Linlithgow, Lothian, Scotland (050 683 4532/4388)
The *ne plus ultra* of the steak house. A very strange outfit indeed. The meat is "grown" by the owners, but is sometimes carelessly cooked. The gravadlax is the best in Lothian. The service is churchy, pretentious. A genuine oddity and one that is worth risking if you can afford £100.

Garden Restaurant
Gatwick Hilton, Gatwick Airport, West Sussex (0293 518080)
Astonishing. A Hilton hotel in the middle of an airport with a serious restaurant. The actual room does its utmost to look unlike a Hilton, and were it not for the acres of leisure 'n' fun informal casual wear you could almost forget that you are in an airport. The cooking is highly accomplished — fresh thin

noodles with sweetbreads, chicken and basil; outstanding grouse with celeriac purée, pungent Burgundian cheeses. Interesting wines including a drinkable Pinot Noir d'Alsace. Competent and friendly service. Hardly surprisingly, it is frequented by locals as well as travellers. £70.

The Grafton
45 Old Town, London SW4 (01-627 8231)
Lovingly restored late 17th-century house converted into a rather preposterously formal French restaurant. However, it isn't pompous and much of the cooking is to be reckoned with. The sweet soufflés are probably the best in town. And there's not much wrong with rabbit with herb sauce and ravioli of langoustine, nor with steak sandwiching *foie gras*. The vegetables are less well prepared and the wine list too Francophile. £60.

L'Hippocampe
131a Munster Road, London SW6 (01-736 5588)
Formidable *bouillabaisse* better than many you'll get in the Vieux Port at Marseilles. The rest of the menu is piscine too — marinated salmon, mussel and quail egg salad. The place is corridor-like and every table is the worst in the house, but it doesn't much matter. Congenial French service. Reasonable wines. £55.

Ikkyu
67 Tottenham Court Road, London W1 (01-636 9280)
Informal and rather chaotic Japanese basement café specializing — the only place in London to do so — in *robatayaki*, ie, rustic cooking. Much of this is very good indeed: potato and beef stew, grilled pickerel, meaty tasting miso soup, wonderful sashimi in large portions, grilled duck. Mercifully no care is taken to make pictures on plates. £20.

Jacques
130 Blackstock Road, London N4 (01-359 3410)
Looks like a junk shop, but is in fact a serious, very French restaurant whose cooking is simple, sophisticated and painstaking. The eponymous host, famous for being himself, has accumulated an impressive cellar which mirrors in its eclecticism the decoration of the dining room. Anything can happen here. £70.

Jamdani
34 Charlotte Street, London W1 (01-636 1178)
Elegant modern Indian restaurant — all adobe walls and wrought steel chairs. Many of the dishes are to be found in no other subcontinental establishment: curried hare, the battered fish called *Ammsar*, pineapple and vermicelli pudding. And more familiar dishes are executed with unfamiliar panache. But it is expensive: £60 (without alcohol).

Laurent
428 Finchley Road, London NW2 (01-794 3603)
Far and away the best of the few London restaurants that do couscous. It's actually better than many in Paris, too. The grain is served with various combinations of grilled lamb and merguez sausages and with first-class broth. To start with, the Tunisian *brik à l'oeuf* is delicious. Cheap and potent Moroccan wine. £28.

Lychgates
5a Church Street, Old Town, Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex (0424 212193)
Small and homely restaurant in part of a Wealden house in a pretty street of weather-boarded buildings. Accomplished and well-judged cooking, amiable service. The menu is very understated — when it says lamb casserole you get just that, but done with a sureness of touch that is remarkable. Impressive starters, delicious sweets. There's nothing very notable to drink. The prices are most reasonable. £35-£40.

Ming
35-36 Greek Street, London W1 (01-734 2721/437 0292)
A decoratively typical suburban Chinese restaurant that has strayed into Soho. The cooking, however, is typical of nothing — it is often original, frequently good. Belly pork is simmered in the Japanese manner with soy and sake, prawns are fried in a batter of fermented bean curd, minced beef is served with coriander and onion-spiked pancakes. £40-£45.

Montagu Arms
Palace Lane, Beaulieu, Hampshire (0590 612324)
Not quite what you expect in a Fully Accredited Beauty Spot. This is a good hotel with a highly promising restaurant that eschews the Tourist Board English-ry which such places tend to go in for. The cooking is polished, and, in the case of the fish dishes, really excellent: salmon with delicate pasta, smoked salmon and crab tart. Vegetables are often inspired and the sweets are nice. However, both duck and guinea-fowl were pretty flavourless; maybe a new supplier is called for. Fine selection of wines including numerous half bottles. Good natured and well informed service. £70.

Morton's House
East Street, Corfe Castle, Dorset (0929 480988)
Fine Jacobean house, fine up-to-the-minute cooking by a former sous-chef at Harveys. There is an evident dependence upon the manner and matter of that restaurant, but there are also signs that the chef is going to find his own way. Very good sweetbread roast whole with Madeira and chanterelle sauce, accompanied in the Harvey's style with a nest of thin pasta. Fairly good pasta, too, in a dish of crab ravioli. Some of the service leaves a bit to be desired, but otherwise everything's hunky dory. Good sweets, interesting wines, reasonable prices — two will pay £85.

Mr Kong
21 Lisle Street, London WC2 (01-437 7341)
Good quality new wave Cantonese cooking in rather plain surroundings. Satay eels with fagara pepper are sensational and the "sandpot" dishes (casseroles) are outstanding — duck with yams, lamb with dried beancurd, venison with ginger wine. £25.

Nanten
6 Blandford Street, London W1 (01-935 6319)
Decoratively chaotic Japanese café where cigarette smoking is obligatory. The cooking is unfailingly OK and the menu includes many rarely seen dishes. Good natured service. £60.

Nichol's
75 Farfax Road, London NW6 (01-624 3880)
At first glance this appears to be yet another standard issue late-Eighties suburban restaurant purveying a sort of modified *nouvelle cuisine*. Further investigation reveals it to be a serious and often inspired place whose cooking is both technically sound and very tasty: smoked haddock salad with chive butter sauce, tremendous fondant potatoes with a crisp crust, fine sweets. £45 plus.

Oakes
169 Slad Road, Stroud, Gloucestershire (0453 759950)
The dining room is like a drab tea room, but the cooking is rather special: mullet on potato galette, veal with a first-rate marsala sauce, potent leek soup. The set lunch is a bargain. At dinner two will pay £55.

Orso
27 Wellington Street, London WC2 (01-240 5269)
Fashionable basement done out to look like Milan or Turin of the early 1950s. Most dishes are of Piedmontese or Lombardian provenance: sweetbreads with shallots, chicken with olives and tomatoes. It successfully combines rusticity with refinement. The attention to detail is great. Interestingly enterprising Italian wines. £60.

Pizzeria Castello
20 Walworth Road, London SE1 (01-703 2556)
The best pizzas in London by a long way. Big restaurant, ranks of pizza ovens by the door, utilitarian décor, fantastic bustle. The prices are very low for cooking of such excellence. Drink Colle Secco. The pasta dishes are perfectly OK, but don't march the main business of the place. £20.

Poons
4 Leicester Street, London WC2 (01-437 1528)
Undecorated café which serves one of London's greatest dishes — hotpot of eel, belly pork and garlic. Also worth the trip are the wind-dried meats and sausages, and the sea bass. The service is curt and they fail to honour bookings. The cooking at the other branches of Poons is disappointing. £24.

Poppies
The Roebuck, Brimfield, Ludlow, Shropshire (058 472 230)
There are all sorts of good things here: Dunkerton's cider, delicious cheeses, nice wines at decent prices. Beyond all that is the cooking, which is restrained, savoury, pleasing. The chef, Carole Evans, is good at fruit with meat and even better at local fish. The dining room is the rather smooth adjunct to an otherwise ordinary country pub. £68.

The Roadhouse Restaurant
16 High Street, Roade, near Northampton (0604 863372)
The dining room is English tea-shoppe-like. The cooking is gutsy, strong on game — fine woodcock, pheasant pâte en croute with a Cumberland sauce. Attentive service, decent cheap wines, serious cheeses. A useful place in a gastronomically barren part of England. £50.

La Seppia
8a Mount Street, London W1 (01-499 3385/629 5446)
Refined modern north Italian cooking in a bizarrely decorated basement. The £19 tasting menu is a great bargain. An altogether polished and promising establishment which demonstrates that a French trained chef of talent can pull his nation's clichéd cuisine out of the doldrums. The emphasis is piscine: fish broth with salmon and scallops, brill with lentils are first rate. There's also a fine risotto with white truffle, gnocchi with piquant tomato sauce, black noodles with chilli. £80.

Sri Siam
14 Old Compton Street, London W1 (01-434 3544)
Thai cooking done with European flair — and all the better for it. The restaurant is long, narrow, noisy and rather effortfully decorated. The cooking, with the exception of basic staples, is impressive — tempura of vegetables, fine fish cakes, marvellous "red" curry, grilled beef with coriander and mint. £50-£55.

Sud Ouest
27-31 Basil Street, London SW3 (01-584 4484)
Vaguely theatrical, faintly surreal interior. Thoroughly accomplished, very confident cooking by an Englishman, Nigel Davies, who draws on the repertoire of the French south-west and treads a steady path between reverence and invention. Salmon with warm oysters, scallops with sauces of garlic and parsley, duck with braised cabbage — these are excellent. The sweets are good, too. The punters are interestingly mixed and the atmosphere is one of strassless bustle. £45-£55.

Turner's
87 Walton Street, London SW3 (01-584 6711)
Flashy customers, accomplished French cooking, stingy portions, and a chef-patron who spends most of his time in his immaculate whites greeting his customers. Rabbit terrine, duck pâte well sauced cream and mullet successfully elaborate sweets, fine cheeses. Unexciting wines. £68.

Very Simply Nico
48a Rochester Row, London SW1 (01-630 8061)
A super-bistro, or quasi brasserie, or something between the two. The cooking, by one of Nico Ladenis's former sous-chefs, Tony Tobin, is not that simple. Some of the dishes, such as pickled trout are period pieces. Others, such as *boudin blanc* of chicken, are unusual. There is fine duck confit, excellent steak garnished in the traditional Bern inn mode, brilliant chips, potato puree dense with olive oil. Friendly service. Short but interesting wine list. £60.

Vioche
54 Camberwell Church Street, London SE5 (01-701 7621)
French bistro frequented by French punters. The cooking is altogether sound and generally south-western — duck confit, cassoulet, that sort of thing. The portions are massive and the staff are unusually welcoming. Indifferent young wines. £50.

White's
93 High Street, Cricklade, Wiltshire (0793 751110)
Confident and assertive cooking that tastes of something. Colin White's stuff is unabashedly rustic, generous, fairly inventive lovage soup with fine *croûtons*, brains deep fried with lemon *compote*, extraordinary and memorable *boudin blanc* that's akin to haggis; creamy turnips; duck with pineapple. Excellent British farmhouse cheeses. The dining room is pretty, the service is friendly, the wines are real bargains. £60.

Wilson's
236 Blythe Road, London W14 (01-603 7267)
Austerely decorated little neighbourhood restaurant whose Anglo-French cooking is of a standard associable with much more elevated joints. The dishes certainly don't sound that promising and certain of the combinations — pike with goat's cheese sauce, goose breast with quince jam — suggest a desperate scrabbling for novelty. But they, and many like them, work astonishingly well. Much improved wine list, friendly service. £45.

Zazou
74 Charlotte Street, London W1 (01-436 5133)
Southern French fish restaurant in a smart basement with some sort of cocktail bar on the ground floor. Many of the dishes are slightly and — unusual this — successfully orientalized: oysters with curry sauce, salmon with soy and ginger. Grilled fish is simply served with extra virgin olive oil. The cooking is unfailingly impressive and so are the cheeses which are, oddly, all British. £74.

Ziani Dolce
112 Cheyne Walk, London SW10 (01-352 7534/1234/01-376 5122)
Austerely elegant Italian trat with estimable cooking and unusually congenial waiters. The following are recommended: *tritto misto* of veal brains, sweetbreads, kidney and liver; salmon marinated in lemon juice and olive oil, raw beef with Parmesan. The wines are no more than adequate. £58.

★★★★

Alexander House Flash
Fen Place, Turner's Hill, West Sussex (0342 714914). £120.

Anna's Place Swedish
90 Mildmay Park, London N1 (01-249 9379). £40.

L'Auberge de Provence Midi
St James's Court Hotel, 41 Buckingham Gate, London SW1 (01-821 1899). £110.

L'Aventure Bistro
3 Blenheim Terrace, London NW8 (01-624 6232). £55.

Brown's Franglais
The Old Commill, South Quay, Worcester (0905 26263). £60.

La Capannina Italian
24 Romilly Street, London W1 (01-437 2473). £45

Chedington Court Country house
Chedington, near Beaminster, Dorset (0935 89265). £65-£90.

Chez Gerard Steak and chips
8 Charlotte Street, London W1 (01-636 4975). £48.

Chez Moi Swagger
1 Addison Avenue, London W11 (01-603 8267). £70.

Chinon Nouvelle-ish
25 Richmond Way, London W14 (01-602 5968). £50.

Clarke's No choice
124 Kensington Church Street, London W8 (01-221 9225). £70.

Flynn's Australian
3 Fountain Street, Nailsworth, Gloucestershire (045383 5567). £45-£50.

Golden Duck Chinese
6 Hollywood Road, London SW10 (01-352 3500/4498). £45.

Gopal's Indian
12 Bateman Street, London W1 (01-434 1621/0840). £30.

Great Nepalese Gurkha
48 Eversholt Street, London NW1 (01 388 6737/5935). £25.

Hilders Yuppie
755 Fulham Road, London SW6 (01-736 8524). £60.

Hilaire French-ish
68 Old Brompton Road, London SW7 (01-584 8993). £70.

Hiroko Japanese
Kensington Hilton, 179 Holland Park Avenue, London W11 (01-603 5003). £53.

Inverlochy Castle Grand
Torlundy, Fort William, Highland Region (0397 2177). £100.

Kashi-Noki Japanese
Hilton International, 18 Lodge Road, London NW8 (01-586 0911). £77.

Jason's Court Restaurant True Brit
Jason's Court, London W1 (01-224 2992). £75.

Lal Qila Indian
117 Tottenham Court Road, London W1 (01-387 4570). £50.

The Left Bank Bistro
88 Field Road, London SW10 (01-352 0970). £50.

Leith's Eclectic
92 Kensington Park Road, London W11 (01-229 4481). £80.

Le Mazarin French
30 Winchester Street London SW1 (01-828 3366). £70.

McCoy's Bistro Informal
The Cleveland Tontine, Staddlebridge, Northallerton, North Yorkshire (060 982 671). £90.

Le Mesurier Modern
113 Old Street, London EC1 (01-251 8117). £60.

Mijanou Good wines
143 Ebury Street, London SW1 (01-730 4099). £55.

Nautilus Fish 'n' chips
27 Fortune Green Road, London NW6 (01-435 2532). £18.

Ninjin Japanese
244 Great Portland Street, London W1 (01-388 4657). £30.

15 North Parade Eclectic
15 North Parade, Oxford (0865 53461). £60.

Paris House French
Woburn Park, Bedfordshire (0525 290692). £60.

La Potinière No choice
Main Street, Gullane, East Lothian (0620 843214). £40-£50.

Le Poussin French
57 Brookley Road, Brockenhurst, Hampshire (0590 23063). £80.

Quincy's Franglais
675 Finchley Road, Child's Hill, London NW2 (01-794 8499). £52.

St Quentin French
243 Brompton Road, London SW3 (01-589 8005). £56.

Le Soufflé French
Inter-Continental Hotel, 1 Hamilton Place, London W1 (01-409 3131). £90.

Umeno-Ya Japanese
253 Finchley Road, London NW3 (01-435 8602). £33.

Wakaba Japanese
122a Finchley Road, London NW3 (01-586 7960). £60.

The Waterfront Italian
Harbour Yard, Chelsea Harbour, London SW10 (01-352 4562/4619). £66.

Yours Faithfully French
4 Nightingale Lane, London SW12 (01-675 5771). £74.

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THE TIMES COOK

At Christmas the smaller in-between meals can be more enjoyable and relaxing, Frances Bissell writes

DIANA LEADBETTER

Making time for tea

Over Christmas and the New Year it is often the small meals which are the most enjoyable, more so than the big set pieces which are planned weeks in advance. Elevenses, afternoon tea or a leisurely late breakfast are civilized and civilizing, punctuation marks which have almost disappeared from our busy lives. Perhaps at this time of year, though, we can find time to pause and relax, whether with friends and family or by ourselves, with a glass of crisp fino or warming oloroso sherry, a mug of turkey soup and a mince pie. Or take an hour off from other pursuits one day to enjoy a traditional English afternoon tea, with scones and clotted cream, thin finger sandwiches and a slice of Christmas cake. I had forgotten how good afternoon tea can be. But recently, as guests at one of the inimitable Gastronomic Weekends at the Imperial in Torquay, among the Alsace food and wine that we were served, it was the afternoon tea on the first day that I remember with particular pleasure. The Alsaciens enjoyed their tea, too, and the chef, Michel Orth, was particularly taken with the clotted cream, as we saw in the "*sauce au Gewurztraminer*" that he made one evening to accompany the turbot. On the few occasions when I use cream in my cooking, I think I might follow Orth's example and use clotted cream, because of the smooth, silky texture that it gives to the sauce.

Apart from the leisurely nature of these meals, they do fit in extremely well with the sort of entertaining many of us do over the holidays. A late breakfast is the perfect thing to serve if you are planning a late dinner party for that day, and elevenses if Christmas dinner is planned for late afternoon or early evening. The midnight meal at Christmas or on New Year's Eve, that is so popular in France, can be anticipated with pleasurable excitement rather than hunger pangs if you prepare afternoon tea. Such meals need not be labour intensive or elaborate, and are excellent occasions for impromptu entertaining. I would also love to have a winter picnic, perhaps to take to a Boxing Day race meeting, with plenty of good cold cuts and leftovers for sandwiches, flasks of hot soup and a slab of Christmas cake. But first, with my Christmas wishes, a recipe for a Christmas morning cocktail, followed by some breakfast and tea-time recipes. The cocktail is best made in large quantities in a crystal jug or claret jug, rather than in individual glasses.

Christmas morning cocktail
(serves 8 to 10)

- 1tbsp clear honey
- 1 miniature Orange Curaçao or Cointreau
- 12 blood oranges
- 1 bottle non-vintage champagne, chilled

Mix the honey and liqueur in a large glass jug. Squeeze the oranges, and carefully pour into the honey mixture, taking care to avoid splashing the sides of the jug. Pour in the champagne, mix, and serve.

"Skuets", or skewers, were a favourite breakfast speciality in 18th-century England, often including sweetbreads and bacon.

When I first thought about a mixed grilled skewer for breakfast, I, too, had visions of sweetbreads and chicken liver and kidneys, but I'm not sure that cooking offal at that time of the day is everyone's idea of a treat. If it is, however, then nothing could be simpler, except that the sweetbreads should be soaked and blanched before dicing and the chicken livers should be trimmed. But another good combination is scallops and bacon. Traditionally-cured, smoked, streaky bacon is the one to choose if you can get it. Chipolatas can be twisted and cut in half to make smaller sausages for threading on to the skewers, and you could also add chunks of black pudding.

Grilled breakfast skewers
(serves 6)

- 12 rashers smoked streaky bacon
- 12 scallops, cleaned
- 2tbsp melted butter
- 2tbsp soft white breadcrumbs
- 12 button or cup mushrooms, trimmed and wiped
- 12 cherry tomatoes
- *To serve:* sprigs of fresh watercress or parsley, toast or triangles of fried bread

Remove the bacon rind, cut each rasher in half, and blanch in boiling water for a couple of minutes. Drain and dry on kitchen paper. Separate the scallop from its roe, remove the black thread around the scallop and the pad of white muscle. Roll the scallops and roe in melted butter, and then in the breadcrumbs, pressing them well in. Roll up the bacon rashers, and thread the various ingredients alternately on to oiled skewers. Brush the mushrooms with a little oil or melted butter, and nick the tomato skins to prevent them from bursting. Place under a pre-heated, moderately hot grill for five or six minutes. Serve hot.

Mushrooms and scallops grilled alone in this manner make a very good lunch or starter. In fact, cultivated mushrooms are worth considering at this time of year. Immediately after Christmas Day (the only day on which they are not picked), they will be in good supply and prices should be lower. Apparently mushrooms double in size every 24 hours if they are not picked, so we should see some larger ones about. Time for a feast of mushrooms then: mushroom soups, mushroom salads, mushrooms on toast, mushroom sandwiches, a mushroom lasagne (instead of a meat one), perhaps, and mushroom sauces and stuffings. For a sturdy picnic sandwich, I recommend lightly buttered, quite thickly cut wholemeal bread, a layer of thinly sliced mushrooms sprinkled with salt, pepper and lemon juice, slices of rare roast beef, then more mushroom slices. This is another old English country favourite. The mushrooms absorb the juices and prevent the bread from becoming soggy, while keeping it nice and moist.

I rarely think of using herbs when making pudding and cakes, but one day I noticed a jar of dried lemon grass next to a bottle of sweet lemon oil. I had planned to make a moist, lemon-flavoured coconut cake. A pinch of lemon grass made it even more fragrant. The same effect can be achieved by using grated lemon zest in place of the lemon oil, and dried lemon verbena in place of the lemon grass. Ice with a lemon water icing (icing sugar, lemon juice and water); or make a lemon syrup, pour it over the cake while still warm, cut into diamonds or wedges, and serve it as a pudding with chilled thick yoghurt or cream.

Lemon grass and coconut cake

- 6oz/170g unsalted butter, softened
- 6oz/170g light muscovado sugar
- 3 eggs, separated
- 4oz/110g self-raising flour
- pinch of salt
- 1tsp baking powder
- 4oz/110g desiccated coconut
- 1tsp ground or rubbed dried lemon grass
- ½tsp lemon oil

Grease a 9in/23cm square cake tin, and line the base with greaseproof paper. Cream the butter and sugar together, and beat until pale and fluffy. Beat in the egg yolks one at a time, and then fold in the dry ingredients. Whisk the egg whites until stiff, and then fold into the cake mixture, together with the lemon oil. Pour into the prepared tin, and bake in a pre-heated oven at 170°C/325°F, gas mark 3 for about 40 to 50 minutes, or until a fine skewer inserted into the middle of the cake comes out clean. Allow the cake to cool slightly in the tin before removing it.

Rich apricot and cardamom scones
(makes 12)

- ¾lb/340g plain flour
- 4tsp baking powder
- 1½oz/40g caster sugar
- ½tsp ground cardamom
- pinch of salt
- 2oz/60g butter
- 2oz/60g finely chopped dried apricots
- 1 egg
- 4-5fl oz/115-140ml milk
- beaten egg and milk for glazing

Sift together the dry ingredients. Cut in the butter, and rub into the flour, quickly and lightly with your fingertips. Stir in the apricots. Beat together the egg and half the milk, and mix into the dry ingredients, adding more milk as necessary until you have a soft dough. On a lightly floured work-top, quickly knead the dough until smooth, roll out to about ¾in/2cm thick, and cut into 2-2½in/5-6.5cm rounds. Place the scones on a lightly greased and floured baking tray, just touching each other. Brush with egg and milk glaze, and bake at 220°C/425°F, gas mark 7 for 10 minutes or until well risen and golden brown.

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FOOD

A rare treat

An old Italian proverb defined the taste of caviare as "flies, dung and salt". But for that would anybody pay £1 a gram? That is this year's price for beluga — and that is *wholesale*, not retail. At Blankley's in London's Leadenhall Market, the smallest (28g) tin of beluga, which last year cost £19.50, is selling for £48.

Other varieties of caviare are not quite so expensive — and they need be no less delicious. Beluga, the largest grained roe, comes from a monstrous sturgeon (*Huso huso*), that can live to be 100 years old and weigh 2,000kg. It now accounts for less than two per cent of the world caviare market. The variety has been said to be heading for extinction for years, and since it takes the fish 20 years to start bearing marketable roe, there is not going to be a sudden increase in its availability.

What matters with caviare, though, is less the variety of sturgeon it comes from than the care and skill with which it has been processed and handled. Pasteurized caviare is no better than tinned *foie gras* — a pretty pointless expense.

Beluga commands a premium because its pearly grey-black eggs are the glossiest and largest — even up to the size of small peas. But they are also the most fragile and easily damaged, and the most difficult in which to preserve a semblance of freshness.

The caviare that was once reserved for the tsars and the emperors of Austria was not, in fact, beluga, but came from the smallest east European sturgeon, the sterlet (*Acipenser ruthemus*), while golden caviare from Iran was reserved for the Shah. The virtue of golden caviare, though, is entirely in its appearance — colour has no bearing on flavour.

The variety most likely to have golden-brown colour (it can also be greenish or grey) is osetra (also spelt oscietra, osciotre and many other ways), which comes from the species *Acipenser gueldenstaedtii*. The grains are the next biggest in size to beluga, and can be just as exquisite in flavour, but now they are less than half the price. At Blankley's, 50g of osetra cost £30, compared to beluga's £85. Sevruga, the smallest and most widely available caviare, is £22, and still an exceptionally fine treat.

Caviare has not always been such a luxury. Vladimir Nabokov recalls that when his father set out to tramp 1,000 miles to escape the Russian Revolution, the family cook stoked him up with caviare sandwiches to see him on his way. British soldiers in Russia in 1919 referred to it as "fish jam" — and paid extra to eat tinned sardines instead.

Strangely the Soviets have organized the caviare trade more thoroughly than the tsars ever managed, pushing production over 1,000 tonnes a year. Not that much of it is seen in the Soviet Union, where it is called *ikra* and the joke is that it all disappeared with the aristocrats in the Revolution. Now airlines account for a quarter of the world's caviare consumption.

Iran, which produces only a tenth of the Soviets' output, is recovering from the interruption occasioned by the 1979 revolution. Only in 1983 was an edict issued by Ayatollah Khomeini declaring that the sturgeon, contrary to appearance, was a "scaly fish" and thus fit for Islamic consumption.

Romania and Turkey, on the Black Sea, and the United States, in the Pacific northwest and the Hudson river, produce small amounts of caviare, but China, which has been producing for at least 10 centuries, is the only other contender in the British market. Sadly, the Chinese seem to have lost the delicate artistry of caviare processing, and all the Chinese caviare I have tasted have been disappointing.

Most people insist on champagne with caviare. I prefer chilled vodka and otherwise eat the caviare neat. Chopped onions, egg-yolk, toast or cream only dilute the pleasure, and that can no longer be afforded.

Robin Young

SPEND A LITTLE TIME

According to 'The Guinness Book of Records', the smallest watch in the world measures just over 1.2cm long by 0.476cm wide.

Whilst The Edradour is somewhat larger in size, it *is* the world's smallest scotch whisky distillery: producing Scotland's last hand-made malt in a traditional way that gives it a singular taste and quality.

If you're ever up our way and have an hour or so to spare, a wee visit to The Edradour distillery would be time well worth spending.

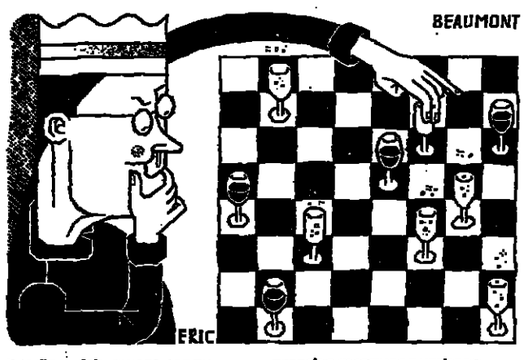
THE EDRADOUR
EST. 1825
The smallest distillery in Scotland

DRINK

Fortified and fizzy

Christmas would not be complete without a warming copita of sherry, a post-prandial glass of port and a refreshing flute of champagne. Jane MacQuitty continues her High Street guide to festive tippling

BEAUMONT



ERIC

SHERRY

Solear Manzanilla Pasada, Antonio Barbadillo, Arthur Rackhams £5.99 (half bottle).
A fine fino is all very well, but Christmas Day deserves the best. So try this wonderfully crisp, piquant, almost salty manzanilla, that is bone dry but has stacks of flavour.

Amontillado Viejo del Duque, Gonzalez Byass, Wine Rack £9.49, Oddbins £9.99.
Dry, old amontillado is a rarity today, but Gonzalez Byass's intense, rich, nutty del Duque is delicious.

Matusalem Oloroso Dulce, Gonzalez Byass, Wine Rack £9.49, Oddbins £9.99.
This amazing, deep browny-black, sweet oloroso is what great sweet sherry is all about; oodles of luscious walnut and raisin-like layers of flavour.

PORT

1978 Warre Quinta da Cavadinha, Majestic Wine Warehouses £13.95, Wine Rack £13.75.
Port is at long last being taken seriously by the High Streeters. This delicious, rich, ripe, plummy, fruit-packed port is even more toothsome now than it was when it was first introduced here last year.

1978 Graham's Malvados, Oddbins £12.99, Peter Dominic £15.45.
Graham's, like Warre's, is one of the great port names, and always produces very fine tea-rose-scented wines that are often more fruity and luscious than its competitors.

1978 Taylor's Quinta de Vargellas, Majestic Wine Warehouses £15.95, Peter Dominic £15.25.
The most respected port house of all, and not without reason. This violet-scented, rich, fruity port is a first-class example of a single quinta, or estate, wine.

MADEIRA

Ten Year Old Malmsey, Blandy, Wine Rack £10.99, Oddbins, £10.95.
No longer the forgotten fortified wine it once was. Try this fine, rich, sweet, tangy, raisiny Malmsey with mince-pies, Christmas pudding, or roast chestnuts.

Cossart Five Year Old Bual, Wine Rack £7.89.
Not in the same league as Blandy's Ten Year Old Malmsey, but Cossart & Gordon's elegant, smoky style, backed up by a tangy-nutty palate, will go down well with a bowl of game consommé.

Cossart Malmsey, Wine Rack £5.99.
This modestly-priced, rich, sweet, raisiny Malmsey makes a good stomach-warmer after midnight mass.

CHAMPAGNE

J. de Telmont Grande Réserve Brut, Majestic Wine Warehouses £8.95.
Still one of the best bargain-buy non-vintage champagnes in the country. The flowery-biscuity flavour of this champagne, dominated by black grapes, should go down well with everyone.

Laurent-Perrier Brut, Wine Rack £11.98 by the case, Oddbins £11.99 (seven bottles for the price of six special offer).
Just about the cheapest *grandes marques* purchase this Christmas, and definitely worth tracking down, as Laurent-Perrier's crisp, fruity, appley Brut will appeal to everyone.

Pol Roger Brut, Sainsbury £14.45, Majestic Wine Warehouses £14.75.
Rich, creamy, pin-head bubbles, backed up by a pleasant yeasty-fruity flavour, often puts Pol Roger ahead of the other *grandes marques* pack.

VINTAGE CHAMPAGNE

1985 Sainsbury's Blanc de Blancs, Sainsbury £10.75.
Don't expect *grandes marques* champagne vintage quality from this supermarket bubbly, but this fresh, elegant offering has lots of soft, ripe, pineapple fruit.

1983 Waitrose Champagne, Waitrose £10.75.
The same applies to this champagne's greeny-gold colour and big, rich, biscuity style.

1982 Charles Heidsieck, Sainsbury £17.45.
1982, '83 and '85 are all good champagne years, but the fact that this is a *grandes marques* wine and the oldest of the trio puts it in a different class. Definitely worth the extra outlay, for it has a soft, rich, moreish palate.

FIZZ

G. F. Cavalier Brut, Majestic Wine Warehouses £2.85, Oddbins £2.99 (£2.84 per case).
I recommend this splendid, cheap, dry, French sparkler every year, as its light, crisp, appley palate represents extraordinarily good value. Cavalier tastes fine on its own and blends well with fresh orange juice or Guinness.

Ponti Gran Spumante, the Co-op £2.75.
If Cavalier is Britain's best, dry, inexpensive fizz, then this is the country's cheapest sweet sparkler. Try serving this wonderful, fresh, musky-grapey fizz with fresh fruit salad for a refreshing Christmas Day alternative.

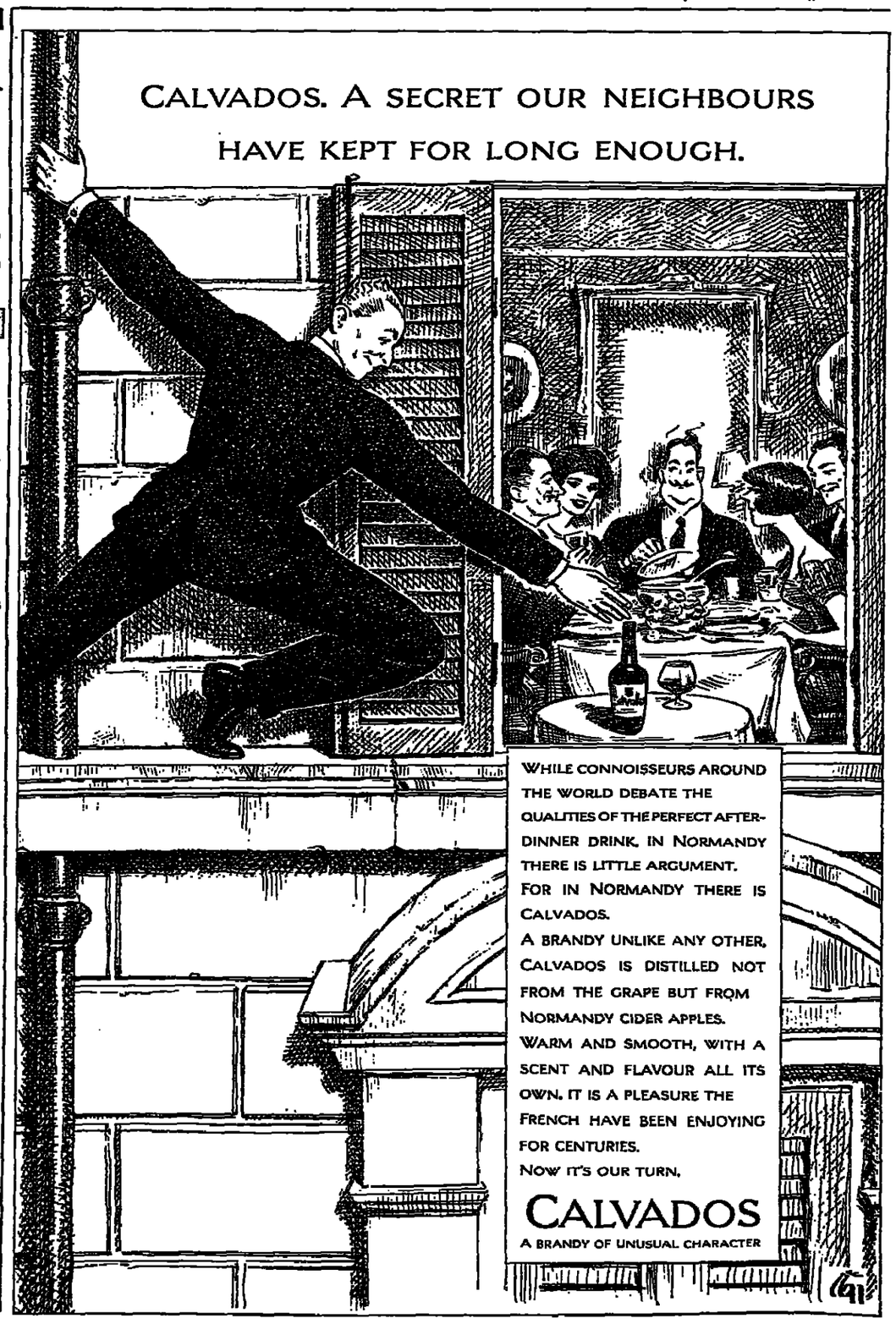
Pétillant de Listel, Sainsbury £1.79, the Victoria Wine Company £1.99.
Low alcohol fizz sounds horrid, but this softly-sweet, grapey-raisiny wine is one of the best and should be in every festive wine rack.

CLASSY FIZZ

Sainsbury's 1987 Sparkling Riesling, Sainsbury £4.35.
At long last here is a fine German sparkler whose delicious, light, flowery Riesling fruit should be just the thing for anyone who dislikes bone-dry fizz.

Montana Lindauer, Oddbins £4.99.
Impress the neighbours by serving this little-known, but stylish New Zealand fizz, with its fine mousse and elegant, biscuity taste made by the *methode champenoise*. It is based principally on Pinot Noir grapes, with some Chardonnay, too.

1985 Iron Horse, Les Amis du Vin, 51 Chiltern Street, London W1 £13.05, Majestic Wine Warehouses £14.29.
California's answer to champagne. This fine *methode champenoise* fizz comes from a remote hill-top winery in the Green Valley. Enjoy this lean, elegant, racy-fruity fizz on Christmas Day.



THE ARTS 1

The Arts in the Eighties: **Paul Griffiths** on historical touches in contemporary music

Advancing backwards

***The Mask of Orpheus:* one of the outstanding works of the decade**

It was the decade when we exchanged our black dinner plates for silver saucers. When we *all* learned what commercial sponsorship meant. When Simon Rattle and the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra went on and on providing a glorious contrary to a stagnant orchestral world. When "early music" began to mean natural horns, gut strings and zooming tempos in Beethoven. When the major recording stars included Wilhelm Furtwängler, Tito Schipa and Clara Haskil. When the South Bank turned into a theme park. When we learned to follow opera plots from the autocue, having given up hope of doing so from the stage.

But what of new music in the 1980s? There is an argument, by now rather well-worn, that musicians and audiences have turned to the past because of the hopelessness of the present. Hence the great vitality of the period-style movement, which has certainly produced many of the outstanding records of the decade. Hence too, the argument continues, the evolution of "historic recordings" from a minority passion into a general, if still marginal, enthusiasm. And hence the similar growth of interest in previously forgotten masters, particularly of the late 19th century and the early 20th: during the decade big works by Zemlinsky, Chausson, Schmidt, Dukas, Schreker, Pfitzner and many others have been revived in the concert hall, opera house and on record.

But it is too simple to ascribe all this historicism to a failure among living composers, or to a corresponding failure of understanding by living audiences. For one thing, this has been a decade of outstanding creative achievement, in contrast with the depressing Seventies (but then one wonders how it will all seem in 10 years' time). For another, the sudden revival of operatic composition has revealed a large audience for contemporary music, even in London, with the Coliseum filled for Birtwistle and Blake as well as for the less wonderful Reimann and Glass.

And the success of the Almeida and Huddersfield festivals, and of such specialist groups as the Arditti Quartet, has shown that the most challenging new music, if presented with conviction and panache, will find its public. It may not be as large as that for Norrington's Beethoven or Sinopoli's Mahler, but size is not the only criterion of health.

No, pursuit of the past is surely more deeply ingrained in our cultural condition than simply to be explained as a reaction against the work of living composers: that explanation seems particularly inadequate at a time when so many composers are themselves turning to, or being engulfed by, modes of form and feeling borrowed from another era. The post-war avant-garde adventure, associated with the names of Stockhausen and Boulez, had fallen apart by the beginning of the Seventies; by the Eighties it had lost even the belief of its leaders. Stockhausen's seven-opera cycle *Licht*, for all the immensity of its public apparatus, is entirely a private vision, curiously untested by any outside measure: a musical Xanadu, though hardly less fascinating for that. And perhaps the same may be said of Boulez's electronic-orchestral *Répons*, by a composer who has spent much of the decade reworking his own past.

And yet there are younger composers who have pressed on in the belief that there are new musical continents yet to be discovered. Brian Ferneyhough's concert-long *Carceri d'invenzione* cycle was the decade's outstanding proof of a continuing modernist vitality — and of this composer's high-pressure abundance of imagination — but the music of the French composer Pascal Dusapin and the Finn Magnus Lindberg was also a shot in the arm. The big difference from the Fifties is that there is no longer a communal spirit engendered by summer schools and manifestos: composers have become more isolated, and probably no longer think in terms of reinventing the art of music. But the possibilities of a pristine newness remain.

So they do, too, in the music of György Kurtág and Birtwistle. Kurtág is alone in contemporary music in following a narrow line of exposed subjectivity, bleak and humorous, confessional and ironic, finding its perfect literary partner in the *Kafka Fragments* for soprano and violin: we badly need a recording of this music drama in miniatures.

We need one also of Birtwistle's *The Mask of Orpheus*, which stands high, perhaps alongside Messiaen's *St François d'Assise*, in a decade that also saw the first performances of three of Stockhausen's *Licht* operas, of Berio's *La vera storia* and *Un re in ascolto*, of Blake's *The Plumber's Gift* and Casken's *Golem*, of Boesmans' *La passion de Gilles* and Weir's *A Night at the Chinese Opera*, of Adams' *Nixon in China* and Knussen's *Where the Wild Things Are*. This is an astonishing roll-call, unequalled in opera since the Thirties.

Perhaps also unequalled since the Thirties is this so prevalent historicism in composition, which may result in the post-Shostakovich tragedies and ironies of Alfred Schnittke or in the tantalizing, witty and sometimes disturbing brushes with tonality and tradition marking the recent music of György Ligeti, to leave unmentioned the host of Mahlerian symphonies and the like that have turned up in the United States and Germany particularly. And minimalism, too, can be seen as a route to the past, a re-achievement of a medieval sureness and grace in the music of Arvo Pärt (or indeed that of Messiaen), or a return to infantile repetition elsewhere — though *Nixon in China* made a touching and funny point of its characters being in musical Disneyland, and Steve Reich's *Different Trains* found pattern music shunting along a lot of black bad trips. If composers are nearly all going backwards these days, some of them at least are going forwards at the same time.

ENTERTAINMENTS

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WEDNESDAY 27 DECEMBER at 3.30 p.m.
MOZART - VIVALDI
CITY OF LONDON SINFONIA
Mozart ... MARRIAGE OF FIGARO OVERTURE
Mozart ... EINE KLEINE NACHTMUSIK
Mozart ... PIANO CONCERTO No. 21, K467
Vivaldi ... THE FOUR SEASONS
Directed from the piano by IAN WATSON
NICHOLAS WARD violin
£6.50, £8.50, £10.50, £12.50, £14.50

WEDNESDAY 27 DECEMBER at 7.45 p.m.
ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
PER DREIER cond. LORA DIMITROVA piano
Rossini ... William Tell Overture
Grieg ... Peer Gynt Suite No.1
Rachmaninov ... Piano Concerto No.2
Dvorák ... Symphony No.9 (New World)
£7.50, £10, £12.50, £14.50, £16.50

THURSDAY 28 DECEMBER at 7.45 p.m.
POPULAR CLASSICS
Johann Strauss: Die Fledermaus Overture; Sousa: Semper Fidelis; Sibelius: Finlandia; Grieg: Piano Concerto; Suppe: Light Cavalry Overture; Mascagni: Intermezzo from Cavalleria Rusticana; Lehar: Gold And Silver Waltz; Elgar: Pomp And Circumstance March No.1; Ravel: Bolero
LONDON CONCERT ORCHESTRA
MARTIN ANDRE conductor GRAHAM SCOTT piano
£7.50, £9.50, £11.50, £13.50, £15.50

FRIDAY 29 DECEMBER at 3 p.m.
TCHAIKOVSKY
LONDON CONCERT ORCHESTRA
JAMES BLAIR conductor JAMES LISNEY piano
Sleeping Beauty Waltz - The Nutcracker Suite
Piano Concerto No. 1 - Swan Lake Suite
"1812" Overture with Cannon & Mortar Effects
£6.50, £8.50, £10.50, £12.50, £14.50
Children under 16 half-price

SATURDAY 30 DECEMBER at 3.30 p.m.
THE SNOWMAN
Presented and narrated by ROY CASTLE
Howard Blake, composer and creator of The Snowman, conducts the traditional Christmas performance of this childrens classic, together with the first public performance of his new film Grampa. His Nursery Rhyme Overture, with a new twist in its tail, completes the programme.
SINFONIA OF LONDON conducted by HOWARD BLAKE
EMILY OSBORNE, NICOLE TIBBELS & TERRY EDWARDS
Wroughton Middle School Choir and BET Choirboy of the year Andrew Quartermain to sing "Walking In The Air"
£7.50, £9.50, £10.50 Children under 16 £5.50, £6.50, £7.50

SATURDAY 30 DECEMBER at 8 p.m.
DENNIS O'NEILL'S OPERA GALA NIGHT
Tenor star Dennis O'Neill stars in a superb programme of operatic favourites inc. VERDI: Parigi o cara & Brindisi from La Traviata, La Rivedro In Estasi and Act 3 Duet from Un Ballo In Maschera; Aida: Grand March & Ballet Music: Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves from Nabucco; PUCCINI: E lucevan le stelle & Recondita armonia from Tosca; Che gelida manina, Si mi chiamano Mimi, O soave fanciulla from La Boheme, Nessun Dorma from Turandot
DENNIS O'NEILL tenor EIRIAN DAVIES soprano
LONDON CONCERT ORCHESTRA JULIAN SMITH conductor
London Choral Society Fanfare Trumpeters from the Band of the Welsh Guards
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SUNDAY 7 JANUARY at 3 p.m.
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Presented by KEITH CHEGWIN
Bring your teddies to the Christmas holiday fun concert inc. Rudolph The Red-Nose Reindeer, Sleigh Ride, The 'Teddy Bears' Picnic, Jingle Bells, the Waltz from The Nutcracker, the story of Tubby the Tuba and much more plus a special appearance from Father Christmas
LONDON CONCERT ORCHESTRA
FRASER GOULDING conductor PATRICK HARRILD tuba
COME EARLY AND MEET THE BEARS
Tickets £7.50, but only £6.50 if accompanied by a Teddy Bear.
Thursday December 28 at 3.00 - A few seats still available

THURSDAY 11 JANUARY at 7.45 p.m.
MOZART - SCHUBERT MENDELSSOHN
ENGLISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA
Marcello Viotti conductor
Stephanie Gonley violin
Mozart ... The Magic Flute
Mendelssohn ... Violin Concerto
Schubert ... Symphony No.9 (The Great)
£7.50, £9.50, £11.50, £13.50, £15.50

FRIDAY 26 JANUARY at 7.45 p.m.
ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
BRIAN WRIGHT conductor
MURRAY McLACHLAN piano
Rossini ... The Barber Of Seville Overture
Grieg ... Piano Concerto
Handel ... Water Music Suite
Beethoven ... Symphony No.5
£7.50, £10, £12.50, £14.50, £16.50

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SUNDAY 31 DECEMBER at 3.15 p.m. & 7.30 p.m.
JOHANN STRAUSS GALA
With the JOHANN STRAUSS ORCHESTRA
Directed from the violin by JOHN BRADBURY
A traditional Viennese welcome to the New Year with music of the Strauss Family inc. Tales From The Vienna Woods, Czech Polka, Roses From the South, Cuckoo Polka, Ohne Sorgen Polka, Aquarellen Waltz, Annen Polka, Eljen A Magyar, Radetzky March, Bahn Frei!, Jockey-Polka, Wiener Blut Waltz, Eingesendet Polka, Feuerfest Polka, Blue Danube Waltz
JOHANN STRAUSS DANCERS in period costume
GERALDINE STEPHENSON choreographer KATE FLOWERS soprano
£6,£8,£10,£12,£14 (3.15 perf.) £7.50,£9.50,£11.50,£13.50,£15.50 (7.30 perf.)

SATURDAY 27 JANUARY at 7.30 p.m.
TCHAIKOVSKY
LONDON CONCERT ORCHESTRA
NICHOLAS CLEOBURY conductor PIERS LANE piano
BAND OF THE WELSH GUARDS
Romeo & Juliet Fantasy Overture
Capriccio Italien Swan Lake Suite
Piano Concerto No. 1
"1812" Overture with Cannon & Mortar Effects
£6.50, £8.50, £11, £12.50, £14, £15.50

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Tue 26 Dec 7.45pm	MUSIC AND DANCE FROM THE BALLET Orch & principal dancers of Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet Marion Tait, Karen Donovan, Sherilyn Kennedy, Michael O'Hare, David Morse, Kevin O'Hare – Inc. items Swan Lake, Sleeping Beauty, Coppelia £15.50 ONLY ALL OTHERS SOLD — Raymond Gubbay Ltd
Wed 27 Dec 12 noon	THAT'S CRICKET Introduced by Brian Johnston for another amusing look at the world of cricket with Fred Trueman, Mark Nicholas and Bill Frindall. All Seats £7.50 children and senior citizens £5 — Raymond Gubbay Ltd
Wed 27 Dec 3.30pm	CITY OF LONDON SINFONIA Ian Watson piano/dir Nicholas Ward violin Mozart: Ov. The Marriage of Figaro; Eine kleine Nachtmusik; Piano Concerto No 21, Vivaldi: The Four Seasons £14.50 £12.50 £10.50 £8.50 £6.50 — Raymond Gubbay Ltd
Wed 27 Dec 7.45pm	ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA Per Dreier cond. Lora Dimitrova piano Rossini: Ov. William Tell Grieg: Peer Gynt Suite No. 1 Rachmaninov: Piano Concerto No. 2 Dvořák: Symphony No. 9 From the New World £16.50 £14.50 £12.50 £10 £7.50 — Raymond Gubbay Ltd.
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Thur 28 Dec 7.45pm	POPULAR CLASSICS London Concert Orch. Martin Andre cond. Graham Scott piano Prog. inc. Sibelius: Finlandia Grieg: Piano Concerto Mascagni: Intermezzo Cavalleria Rusticana Ravel: Bolero Please note change of conductor £15.50 £13.50 £11.50 £9.50 £7.50 — Raymond Gubbay Ltd
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Fri 29 Dec 7.45pm	GLENN MILLER ORCHESTRA – Christmas Programme directed by Ray McVay & The Moonlight Serenaders Prog. inc. In the Mood, Tuxedo Junction, Chattanooga Choo Choo, St. Louis Blues & special Christmas hits £12.50 £11.50 £7.50 ONLY — Raymond Gubbay Ltd
Sat 30 Dec 3.30pm	THE SNOWMAN – Sinfonia of London Howard Blake cond. Roy Castle narr. with Emily Osborne, Nicola Tibbels, Terry Edwards, Wroughton Middle School Choir, Andrew Quartermain 1st public perf. of Howard Blake's score of the new film Grampa £10.50 £9.50 £7.50 children under 16 £7.50 £6.50 £5.50 — Raymond Gubbay Ltd
Sat 30 Dec 8.00pm	DENNIS O'NEILL'S OPERA GALA NIGHT London Concert Orch. Julian Smith cond. Eirian Davies sop. London Choral Soc. Fanfare Trumpeters, Band of Welsh Guards Prog. inc. arias from La Traviata, Un Ballo in Maschera, Aida, Tosca, La Bohème, Turandot £18.50 £16.50 £14.50 £12.50 £9.50 £7.50 — Raymond Gubbay Ltd
Sun 31 Dec & Mon 1 Jan Tue 2 Jan 7.45pm	VIENNESE EVENING – London Symphony Orchestra – 85th Anniversary Season John Georgiadis cond. Johann Strauss: Frederica Polka Johann Strauss II: inc. Tritsch Tratsch Polka, Champagne Polka, Egyptian March, Blue Danube Waltz Lanner: Styrian Dances Josef Strauss: Feuerfest Polka £15 £13 £11 £9 £6 £4.50 — LSO Ltd SPONSORED BY THE SELFRIDGE SELECTION & AMERICAN EXPRESS
Mon 1 Jan 3.00pm	LSO – NEW YEAR FAMILY CONCERT John Georgiadis cond. with music of the Strauss family. A chance for younger members of the audience to join in the fun All Seats £5.50 Children under 16 £3.50 — LSO Ltd
Wed 3 Jan Thurs 4 Jan 7.45pm	THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE – Gilbert and Sullivan – Complete and costumed perf. London Savoyards Orchestra and Chorus Peter Gale, Sandra Dugdale, Justin Lavender, John Cashmore, Paul Hudson, Jill Pert, Janine Roebuck, Nicola Lanzetter, Sally Gilpin chor. Richard Balcombe cond. Terry Jenkins. £14.50 £12.50 £10.50 £9 £7 SPONSORED BY TSB GROUP plc. — Norman Meadmore Ltd
Fri 5 Jan 7.45pm	ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA Kazuhiro Koizumi cond. Hiromi Okada Piano Rossini Ov. William Tell Beethoven: Piano Concerto No 5 Emperor Tchaikovsky: Symphony No 6 Pathétique £15 £13.50 £11.50 £9.50 £7.50 £5.50 — Victor Hochhauser Ltd

Barbican Centre — Thursday 18 January at 7.45pm
MONTEVERDI CHOIR
ENGLISH BAROQUE SOLOISTS
John Eliot Gardiner
HAYDN THE SEASONS
Brigitte Poschner soprano Anthony Rolfe Johnson tenor Gerald Finley baritone
Concert sponsored by Sun Alliance Insurance Group
Tickets: £14, £12, £9, £7, £5, £4
Telephone bookings: 01-638 8891 Open 9.00am-8.00pm daily including Sundays

THE SOUTH BANK CENTRE
Tel/CC 01-928 8800 First Call 01-240 7200 Bkg fee

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
Tue 26 Dec to Sat 20 Jan — ENGLISH NATIONAL BALLET Peter Schaufuss' production of THE NUTCRACKER Evenings 7.30 pm Matinees 2.30 pm 27 Dec — 6 Jan also Sat. Mats. 13 & 20 Jan. No Sunday performances. Concessions & special offers ring 01-928 8800. £12.50, £9.50 [ONLY] — ENB

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL
Wed-Sat 27-30 Dec 7.45 — THE FABULOUS SINGLETTES A stunning trio of Australians, who featured in the West End musical "Stop in the Name of Love", see out the 80's with their evocation of all the great 80's girl groups. First half The Plastic Brothers. £8.50, £7.50, £6.50 (concessions £1 off) — Speakout

PURCELL ROOM
Sat 23 Dec 8.00 — CAPITAL ARTS AT CHRISTMAS Theatre Choir & Orchestra, dir. by Kathleen Shanks, Mid-Herts Youth Choir, Peter Twitchin (cond) Christmas celebrations & carols & nautical fund with the musical, Captain Noah and the Floating Zoo. All seats £7 — Sing Loud for Africa

City of Westminster
WIGMORE HALL
36 Wigmore Street London W1H 9DF
Manager William Lyne MBE Box office 01 935 2141 Mailing list £4

Thursday 28 Dec. 7.30 pm	PETER FRANKL piano London Pianoforte Series. Chopin: Ballade in G minor Op.23; 2 Nocturnes Op.55; Impromptus Op.29, Op.36, Op.51; Fantaisie-Impromptu Op.66; Polonaise in F sharp minor Op.44; Bartók: 15 Peasant Songs; Suite Op.14, 3 Rondos; 2 Romanian Dances. £8, £7, £6, £5 — HoM
Friday 29 Dec. 7.30 pm	THE KING'S CONSORT/ROBERT KING dir "Celebrate this Festival". G. Fisher, T. Bonner, J. Bowman, J.M. Ainsley, R. Covey-Crump, M. George, S. Standage leader, C. Steele-Perkins, M. Bennett tpts. Vivaldi: Conc for 2 tpts; Telemann: Conc in D; Purcell: 2 Odes (1683, 1693). £10, £8, £5 (All others sold) EM & Bar Series
Saturday 30 Dec. 7.30 pm	THE ORLANDO CONSORT. Robert Harre-Jones counter tenor/Charles Daniels & Angus Smith tenors/Donald Greig bass. A Celebration of Medieval Christmas from brilliant French music of Notre Dame & Aquitaine school not Perotin, to English carols of the 14th & 15th C £7, £6, £5, £4
Wednesday 3 Jan. 7.30 pm	ANDREAS SCHMIDT baritone. GEOFFREY PARSONS piano. Song Recital Series. Schubert: 9 Lieder; Hugo Wolf: 8 Goethe Lieder. £7.50 (All others sold)
Thursday 4 Jan. 7.30 pm	SERGIU SCHWARTZ violin. LORY WALLFISCH piano. Schumann: Sonata No. 1 in A minor Op.105; Ysaÿe: Solo Violin Sonata No. 3 "Ballade"; Bloch: Baal Shem Suite (1923); Enescu: Violin Sonata No. 2 Op.6; Bartók: Rhapsody No. 1. £7, £6, £5, £4 — Kantor Concert Management
Friday 5 Jan. 7.30 pm	THE KING'S CONSORT. R. King dir-hpschd, G. Fisher sop, P. Goodwin, L. Wood oboes, C. Lawson, R. Harris early clarinets. Orchestra led by R. Goodman: "Most fam'd Italian Masters". Concertos for multiple wind instrs & strings by Vivaldi & Albinoni; Handel: 2 Italian Cantatas. £8, £7, £6, £5 — EM & Bar Series

VICTOR HOCHHAUSER presents at the ROYAL ALBERT HALL
NEW YEAR GALAS
SATURDAY NEXT 30 DECEMBER at 7.30
★ ONE PERFORMANCE ONLY ★
PACO PENA and his FLAMENCO DANCE COMPANY in a
SPECTACULAR SPANISH FIESTA
A fantastic NEW YEAR celebration of Spanish flamenco with the world's greatest flamenco guitarist PACO PENA and his brilliant dance company DIRECT FROM SPAIN

SUNDAY 31 DECEMBER at 3 & 7.30
TCHAIKOVSKY GALA
EXTRA CONCERT AT 3PM OWING TO HUGE PUBLIC DEMAND
(A few seats only for 7.30 performance)
ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
Introduced & Conducted by ANTONY HOPKINS
Soloist BENJAMIN FRITH
★ STARS OF THE SADLER'S WELLS ROYAL BALLET ★
Kneller Hall Military Band
Royal Albert Hall Organ
SUITE, 'SWAN LAKE', WALTZ, 'SLEEPING BEAUTY', PIANO CONCERTO NO. 1, MARCHE MILITAIRE, SUITE 'THE NUTCRACKER',
OVERTURE '1812' CANNON & MORTAR EFFECTS
DAZZLING LASER DISPLAY
★ FREE TCHAIKOVSKY CASSETTE WITH EVERY PROGRAMME ★

MONDAY 1 JANUARY at 7.30
VIENNESE NEW YEAR GALA OF MUSIC AND DANCE
ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
Conductor ORMSBY WILKINS
★ STARS OF THE SADLER'S WELLS ROYAL BALLET ★
Johann Strauss: OV. DIE FLEDERMAUS, CUCKOO POLKA, EMPEROR WALTZ, ROMANTIC WALTZ & PAS DE DEUX GRADUATION BALL, BLUE DANUBE WALTZ, THUNDER & LIGHTNING POLKA, RADETZKY MARCH, PERPETUUM MOBILE, TRITSCH-TRATSCH POLKA, CHAMPAGNE POLKA, PIZZICATO POLKA; Lanner: NEW YEAR GALOP; Waldteufel: SKATERS' WALTZ; Lehár: GOLD & SILVER WALTZ
Tickets: Box Office Royal Albert Hall, 01-589 8212 cc 01-589 9465 cc Hotline 01-379 4444 Open All Hours (24hrs) (no bkg fee)

SUNDAY 11 FEBRUARY at 7.30
ROYAL ALBERT HALL GRAND OPERA GALA
★300 PERFORMERS★
5 GREAT STARS
Conductor ROBERT TEAR
MARILYN HILL SMITH CATHERINE WYN-ROGERS
ADRIAN MARTIN ALAN OPIE
NATIONAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
FANFARE TRUMPETERS OF THE SCOTS GUARDS
LONDON CHORALE PRO MUSICA CHORUS
Ov. BARBER OF SEVILLE, Polovtsian Dances PRINCE IGOR Grand March AIDA Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves NABUCCO 3-arias LA BOHEME Humming Chorus MADAM BUTTERFLY O mio babbino caro GIANNI SCHICCHI Duet PEARL FISHERS Intermezzo CAVALLERIA RUSTICANA Flower Duet LAKME Softly Awakes My Heart SAMSON & DELILAH On with the Motley PAGLIACCI Depuis le Jour LOUISE La donna è mobile and Quartet Act IV RIGOLETTO
TICKETS NOW ON SALE Royal Albert Hall, 01-589 8212 cc 01-589 9465 cc Hotline 01-379 4444 Open All Hours (24hrs) (no booking fee)

at the BARBICAN 01-638 8891
FRIDAY 5 JANUARY at 7.45
In association with the BARBICAN
ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
ROSSINI–BEETHOVEN–TCHAIKOVSKY
Conductor: KAZUHIRO KOIZUMI Soloist: HIROMI OKADA
OVERTURE, WILLIAM TELL ... ROSSINI
PIANO CONCERTO No5(EMPEROR) ... BEETHOVEN
SYMPHONY NO. 6 (PATHETIQUE) TCHAIKOVSKY

FRIDAY 19 JANUARY at 7.45
In association with the BARBICAN
HANDEL-HAYDN-MOZART
ENGLISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA
Director/Harpsichord: PHILIP LEDGER
Piano: WILLIAM STEPHENSON
Trumpet: CRISPIAN STEELE-PERKINS
WATER MUSIC SUITE ... HANDEL
PIANO CONCERTO NO.20, K466 ... MOZART
TRUMPET CONCERTO ... HAYDN
SYMPHONY NO.40 ... MOZART

SATURDAY 20 JANUARY at 7.45
POPULAR CLASSICS
NATIONAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
Conductor: ORMSBY WILKINS
Soloist: ANDREW HAIGH
Overture, Thieving Magpie ROSSINI, Greensleeves VAUGHAN WILLIAMS, Piano Concerto No.2 RACHMANINOV, Overture, Poet & Peasant SUPPE, Finlandia SIBELIUS, Peer Gynt Suite No.1 GRIEG, Polovtsian Dances BORODIN
£5.50 £7.50 £9.50 £11.50 £13.50 £15

at the ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL 01-928 8800
SUNDAY 7 JANUARY at 7.30
GRAND OPERA NIGHT
NATIONAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ALEXANDRA CHOIR
FANFARE TRUMPETERS OF THE SCOTS GUARDS
Conductor: SIMON JOLY Soprano: LESLEY GARRETT
Tenor: PETER BRONDER Baritone: SIMON KEENLYSIDE
Ov. DIE MEISTERSINGER Duet PEARL FISHERS
Grand March AIDA Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves NABUCCO Polovtsian Dances PRINCE IGOR Meditation THAIS, Drinking Song TRAVIATA, Anvil Chorus TROVATORE, Duet DON GIOVANNI, Song to the Moon RUSALKA, La donna è mobile RIGOLETTO, Dance of the Hours LA GIOCONDA
Arias & Choruses: MAGIC FLUTE, MARRIAGE OF FIGARO

SUNDAY 14 JANUARY at 7.30
HITS FROM THE SHOWS
NATIONAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
Conductor: JOHN OWEN EDWARDS
Soprano: ROSEMARY ASHE Baritone: JOHN CASHMORE
Programme includes Items from: MISS SAIGON and Andrew Lloyd Webber's 'PHANTOM OF THE OPERA', 'CATS', 'EVITA' plus excerpts from 'WEST SIDE STORY', 'KISS ME KATE', 'CHORUS LINE', 'ME & MY GIRL', 'CHESS', 'MACK & MABEL', 'OKLAHOMA', 'MY FAIR LADY' etc.
£4.50 £6.50 £8.50 £10.50 £11.50 £13.50 £15

OPERA & BALLET

COLISEUM S 836 3161 cc 240 5258 ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA Fri 29th 7.30 THE LOVE FOR 3 ORANGES. Sat 30th 3.00 & 7.30 HANSEL & GRETEL.

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL 01 928 8800 cc ENGLISH NATIONAL BALLET Peter Schaufuss' production of THE NUTCRACKER 26 Dec - 20 Jan

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE 240 1066/1911. Stdby Info 836 6903. S CC 65 amphi seats avail on the day. No Perf Ton't or Mon. Tue 2.30 & 7.30 THE ROYAL BALLET Cinderella.

SADLER'S WELLS 278 9816 First Call cc 24 hr day 240 7200. SADLER'S WELLS ROYAL BALLET Hobson's Choice Today 2.30 & 7.30 Next Perf Wed 7.30.

THEATRES

ADELPHI 836 7611 (8 lines) CC 741 9999/379 4444 First call 24hr cc 240 7200 (no bkg fee) Groups 930 6123 NOW BOOKING TO APR 7 1990 ME AND MY GIRL THE LAMBETH WALK MUSICAL Nightly at 7.30 Mats Wed at 2.30 & Sat 4.30 & 8.00 "THE HAPPIEST SHOW IN TOWN" Sunday Express Special Christmas Perfs See Next Weeks Listings

ALDWYCH (All bkgs 836 6404) Evgs 7.30 Wed 3.0 Sats 4.0 & 8.0 JUDI DENCH RONALD PICKUP BERNARD HILL THE CHERRY ORCHARD by CHEKHOV, Trans MICHAEL FRAYN "AN ADMIRABLE PRODUCTION — THE WHOLE THING LIFTED ME SIX FEET OFF THE GROUND AND HELD ME THERE, ENTHRALLED" S.Correspondent

ALBERY 867 1115 cc 867 1111 379 4444 (No bkg fee) 741 9999 240 7200 (Bkg fee) Grps 867 1113 BEST MUSICAL SWET Award 1983 WILLY RUSSELL'S BLOOD BROTHERS "ASTONISHING...A Milestone in British Musicals" S Exp ...Brings the audience to its feet, and roaring its approval" D Mail Eves 7.45 Mats Thurs 3 Sat 4 EXTRA XMAS MAT DEC 27 AT 3

ALMEIDA THEATRE 359 4404 Today 4 & 8. ENDS TON'T! CHEEK BY JOWL in LADY BETTY "Thrilling musical play" Obs.

AMBASSADORS 01-836 6111/2 cc 836 1171. CC with bkg fee 240 7200/741 9999/379 4444 Group Sales 930 6123. Eves 7.30. Wed mat 3. Sat 4 & 8 LES LIAISONS DANGEREUSES SEATS AVAIL THIS WEEK' No Perfs Dec 26 or Mat Dec 27 EXTRA MATS DEC 26 & 28 AT 3PM

APOLLO VICTORIA SS 828 8665 cc 630 6262 Groups 828 6188 CC Open All Hours 379 4444 1st Call 240 7200 K Prowse 741 9999 Groups 930 6123 Eves 7.45 Mats Tue & Sat 3.0 SIXTH HIT YEAR! STARLIGHT EXPRESS Music by ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER Lyrics by RICHARD STILGOE Directed by TREVOR NUNN SOME SEATS AVAIL THIS WEEK OAP's £5 on Tues Mats NOW BOOKING TO SEPT '90 Xmas mats Wed 27 Dec and Tue 2 Jan at 3

ARTS 836 2132 cc 379 4444 From £7.50 A SLICE OF SATURDAY NIGHT "I ENJOYED MYSELF" Guardian Mon-Thu 8 Fri & Sat 6.00 & 8.30

APOLLO 01-437 2663 cc 01-379 4444/741 9999 (with bkg fee) 01-240 7200 Grps 01-930 6123 PETER O'TOOLE 'JEFFREY BERNARD IS UNWELL' by Keith Waterhouse Directed by Ned Sherrin "AN OUTRIGHT WINNER" Eve Std. "PETER O'TOOLE IS MAGNIFICENT" F.T. Mon-Fri 8.30. Sat 5.30 & 8.45 No Perf Mon

BARBICAN THEATRE 01-638 8891cc (Mon-Sun 9am-8pm) ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM "THE BEST SHOW IN TOWN FOR THE FESTIVE SEASON" Daily Tel. Tues, Weds, Thurs 7.30, Thurs Mat 2.00. THE PIT Tues, Weds, Thurs 7.30. Thurs Mat 2.00 ROMEO AND JULIET.

CAMBRIDGE THEATRE Earlham St. WC2 01-379 5299 CC 379 4444 (No Bkg Fee) 240 7200/741 9999 (Bkg Fees) Groups 240 7941 RETURN TO THE FORBIDDEN PLANET Shakespeare's Forgotten Rock-and-Roll Masterpiece "SEE ONE SHOW THIS CHRISTMAS — SEE FORBIDDEN PLANET" Sunday Sunday LWT Mon-Fri 8 Mats Wed & Fri 3 Sat 5.00 & 8.30

COMEDY 01 930 2578/8778 cc 839 1438/741 9999 or 24hr with bkg fee 240 7200/379 4444 Grps 930 6123/240 7941. "GLORIOUSLY FUNNY AND VULNERABLE" D.Exp PATRICIA HODGE SIMON CADELL NOEL & GERTIE Words and Music by NOEL COWARD "PATRICIA HODGE IS A DREAM CREATURE" Times "SIMON CADELL IS HERE SUPERB" D. Mail Mon-Fri 8. Wed Mat 3. Sat 6 & 8.45

DRURY LANE THEATRE ROYAL cc (Bkg Fee) 24hr 7 days 379 4444/240 7200 Grps 831 8625 MISS SAIGON BEST MUSICAL Eve Std Drama Awards 1989 Eves 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 3pm Check daily for returns. A few balcony seats usually avail. Good seats avail for some Wed Mats Latecomers not admitted until the interval NEW BOOKING PERIOD: MARCH - JUNE '90 POSTAL BOOKINGS ONLY MAT FRI 29 DEC RESCHEDULED TO JAN 5 CALL 01-836 8108 FOR DETAILS

DOMINION 01-580 9562 Open All Hours 01-379 4444 (24 hrs) (bkg fee) Group Sales Box Office 01-930 6123 CCTB 01-741 9999 (bkg fee). MICHAEL BARRYMORE in ALADDIN with FRANK BRUNO All Star Show. Until Jan 27 Mon-Sat twice daily 2.30 & 7.15 (excl Dec 26) (No 2.30 perf Jan 12,15,19,22,26)

DUKE OF YORKS 836 5122 cc 836 9837 cc 240 7200/379 4444/741 9999 Grps 836 5123 COMEDY OF THE YEAR Olivier Awards 1988 PAULA WILCOX in WILLY RUSSELL'S "GEM" SHIRLEY VALENTINE Eves 8 Mats Thu 3, Sat 5 "The audience roars approval. Shirley's spell is unbreakable" D. Mail 'The funniest & the most heartwarming play for years' D M EXTRA XMAS MAT DEC 28 & JAN 2 AT 3

Fortune Covent Garden, WC2. IDEAL FOR 3-9 YR. OLDS FATHER CHRISTMAS AND THE LOST TOYS Mats Today 11am & 1.30pm (From Dec 27 daily 2.15 & 4.15 (Boxing Day, 11am & 1.30pm) Book on 01-836 2238

FORTUNE Box Office & cc 836 2238 24hr cc bkg fee 240 7200 CHARLES KAY DOMINIC LETTS Susan Hill's THE WOMAN IN BLACK Adapted by Stephen Mallatratt 'A BRILLIANTLY EFFECTIVE SPINE CHILLER' Obs 'MASTERLY' D Exp CHILLING' Ind 'GRIPPING' FT 'FIRST RATE' Ind OVER 350 PERFORMANCES! Evgs 8 Mats Tues 3 Sat 4 NO PERF XMAS DAY MAT 26 DEC 5PM NOW BOOKING TO MAR '90

GARRICK Box Office/cc 01-379 6107 cc (no bkg fee) 01-836 3464/379 4444/741 9999 Royal Court Theatre's Production of OUR COUNTRY'S GOOD BEST PLAY Olivier Awards 1988 Mon-Thur 8.00. Fri & Sat 5.00 + 8.15. Fri 5.00 ALL SEATS £7.50 EXTRA MAT 27 DEC AT 3PM No Perf 25 Dec

GLOBE THEATRE 01 437 3667/741 9999/379 4444. First Call 836 3464 (bkg fee) Groups 930 6123. Evgs 7.45. Sat Mat 3pm CAROLE SHELLEY HELEN RYAN MORAY WATSON in LETTICE AND LOVAGE By PETER SHAFFER Dir MICHAEL BLAKEMORE BEST COMEDY '88 E.Std Award SIX WEEKS REMAINING

HAYMARKET THEATRE ROYAL 01 930 9832 cc 240 7200 / 379 4444 / 741 9999 bkg fee PAUL EDDINGTON "marvellous performance" Ind ANGELA THORNE "lights up the stage" Today in "Sam Mendes' fine production" Ind of Dion Boucicault's "enchanting comedy" D Tel LONDON ASSURANCE Eves 8 Mats Thu 3 Sat 4

HER MAJESTY'S Haymarket 839 2244 CC 24hr 379 4444 (bkg fee) 240 7200 (bkg fee) Group Sales 930 6123 ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S AWARD WINNING MUSICAL THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA DAVE WILLETTS JILL WASHINGTON ROBERT MEADMORE Iren Bartok plays Christine at certain performances Directed by HAROLD PRINCE Eves 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 3 Tickets available week nights June to September 1990 POSTAL APPLICATIONS ONLY

LONDON PALLADIUM Until Jan 27 Box Office & Credit Cards & Groups 437 7373 'ALLO 'ALLO SEVEN WEEKS ONLY! Mon-Fri 8pm. Sat 5.30 & 8.30pm Mat Wed 2.45pm PLUS EXTRA XMAS MATINEES Dec 26, 28, 29, Jan 1 2 at 2.45pm CC (Bkg fee) 240 7200 (24 hrs) /741 9999 / 379 4444

LYRIC Shaftsbury Ave. 437 3686 Groups 930 6125 cc 01 379 4444 /741 9999/(bkg fee) 240 7200 Sheila Hancock PRIN with SUSIE BLAKE BY Andrew Davies Directed by Richard Wilson "EXCELLENT ENTERTAINMENT" What's On. Mon-Fri 7.45. Sat 4.30 & 8.15 Wed Mat 3.00

LYRIC HAMMERSMITH 01-741 2311 cc bkg fee 01 836 3464 Griff Rhys Jones Dinsdale Landen Hugh Lloyd in THARK by Ben Travers Vintage Farce Eves 7.45pm Mats Wed 2.30 Sat 4.00pm. BUTTON MOON AND THE MOON MONSTERS 10.30am & 1.45pm. Studio 01 741 8701 AMERICAN EAGLE Evgs 8.0 Mat Sat 4.30.

MAYFAIR 629 3037 cc 379 4444 SOOTY'S XMAS SHOW Sorry Sold Out! Please book now for next Xmas at the Bloomsbury Theatre 387 9629 cc 379 4444

MERMAID 236 5568 cc 379 4444/741 9999 (no bkg fee) 240 7200 (bkg fee) Grps 930 6123 "SUPERB FARCE" Time Out ROBIN KERMODE HILARY CROWSON and JILLY JOHNSON in FUNNY PECULIAR Mike Stott's outrageous comedy "Rip-Roaring Revival" S Mir Mon-Thur 8.00pm Fri & Sat 6.30 & 9.00pm. No Perfs Dec 26 (Daytime only) FRANK WINDSOR as Long John Silver in TREASURE ISLAND

NATIONAL THEATRE 01 928 2252 Grps 01 620 0741 24hr cc bkg fee: 240 7200 OLIVIER Today 2.00 & 7.15 THE SHAUGHRAUN Boucicault. LYTTELTON Today 2.15 & 7.00 WHALE Hotman. COTTESLOE Today 2.30 & 7.30 MA RAINEY Wilson.

NEW LONDON Drury Lane WC2 405 0072 CC 404 4079 OPEN ALL HOURS 379 4444. Tkts from W H Smith Travel Branches Eves 7.45 Tue & Sat 3.00 & 7.45 THE ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER /T.S. ELIOT MUSICAL CATS SEATS NOW AVAIL FOR EVE PERFS FEB & TUE MATS FROM JAN ONWARDS Group Bookings 01 930 6123 or 01 405 1567. NOW BKG TO 28TH APRIL 1990

OLD VIC 928 7616 cc (with bkg fee) 240 7200/379 4444/741 9999 Mon-Fri 7.30. Wed mat 2.30. Sat 4.00 & 7.45 THE LIAR by Pierre Corneille Directed by Jonathan Miller "BRILLIANTLY FUNNY" Times "A THOROUGH DELIGHT" D.Tel. NO PERFORMANCE DEC 25

PALACE THEATRE 434 0909 24hrs cc 379 4444 (bkg fee) 240 7200 (bkg fee) Group Sales 930 6123 Groups 494 1671 "THE SHOW OF ALL SHOWS" Newsweek LES MISERABLES THE MUSICAL SENSATION Eves 7.30 Mats Thu & Sat 2.30 Latecomers not admitted until the interval "FIGHT TO GET A TICKET" LBC NOW BOOKING TO SEPT '90

PHOENIX THEATRE WC 2 "TREVOR NUNN'S CHRISTMAS GIFT TO THE LONDON THEATRE" S. Times THE BAKER'S WIFE by Joseph Stein & Stephen Schwartz "FULL OF DELIGHT" Obs. "WONDERFULLY FUNNY" Ind. 01-836 2294/240 9661 or cc with bkg fee 01-379 4444/741 9999/240 7200. Groups 01-930 6123. Eves 7.30. Thu & Sat mat 2.30 NO PERFORMANCES DEC 25

PICCADILLY 867 1118 cc 867 1111/379 4444 741 9999 bkg fee KING THE MUSICAL Opens April 4 1990

PLAYHOUSE BO & cc 839 4401 cc 240 7200 bkg fee Group Sales 930 6123 DONALD SINDEN as OSCAR WILDE Mon - Sat 8pm Prevs from Jan 10 Opens Jan 16

PRINCE EDWARD 734 8951 First Call 24hr 7 Day 836 3464 (bkg fee) 379 4444 (bkg fee) Groups 930 6123 ELAINE PAIGE BERNARD CRIBBINS & JOHN BARROWMAN in ANYTHING GOES "THE HOTTEST SHOW IN TOWN" Daily Express "I LOVED EVERYTHING ABOUT IT" Daily Mail Choreographed by MICHAEL SMUIN Directed by JERRY ZAKS Eves 7.30 Mats Thur & Sat 2.30 No Perfs Xmas Day CAST ALBUM AVAILABLE ON FIRST NIGHT RECORDS NOW.

PICCADILLY 867 1118 cc 867 1111/379 4444 741 9999 bkg fee DOROTHY TUTIN & PETER McENERY "Superb in Sondheim's Smash" Ind SUSAN HAMPSHIRE ERIC FLYNN "Enchanting" "Excellent" Whats On Guardian LILA KEDROVA "Irresistible" Times A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC by STEPHEN SONDHEIM WINNER 1989 EVENING STANDARD SPECIAL AWARD "Haunting, hilarious and brilliant" S Times Eves 7.45 Mats Tue & Sat 3.00 NO PERF XMAS DAY EVE ONLY 26 DEC SEASON ENDS FEB 17

PLAYHOUSE BO & CC 01-839 4401 cc 240 7200 (bkg fee) in repertoire for a Christmas season ENID BLYTON'S NODDY Today. Today & Wed 3 & 6. Tues 3 with WINNIE-THE-POOH by A A Milne Thur & Fri 3 & 7. No perfs Dec 25.

PRINCE OF WALES Box Office 01 839 5972 CC First Call 24hr 7 Day 836 3464 (bkg fee)/Open All Hours 379 6131 (bkg fee) ASPECTS OF LOVE "ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S BEST" D.Tel Lyrics by DON BLACK & CHARLES HART Directed by TREVOR NUNN Eves 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 3.0 Queue daily for returns. Strictly no admittance for latecomers NOW BOOKING APR - SEPT '90

QUEENS BO 734 1166/379 4444 /741 9999/240 7200 AT NO BKG FEE. GROUPS 930 6123 NIGEL HAWTHORNE JANE LAPOTAIRE 'Masterly' Tms 'Virtuoso' STms SHADOWLANDS "Packed with emotional bombshells" T.Out "Unbearably Moving" Std "A Joy to the End" DExp Eves 8.00 Mats Wed & Sat 3.00

ROYAL COURT 730 1745 cc 836 2428 From Jan 4 SEVEN LEARS by Howard Barker.

ST MARTIN'S 01-836 1443. Special CC No. 379 4444. Evgs 8.0 Tues 2.45, Sat 5.0 and 8.0 38TH YEAR OF AGATHA CHRISTIE'S THE MOUSETRAP

SAVOY THEATRE 01-836 8888 CC No fees 01-836 3464 (24hr 7-day) 01-379 6219 Grs 01-831 2771, 01-240 7941 01-836 8889 PAUL DANIELS IT'S MAGIC Eves 7.30 Mats Wed & Sat 2.30 (26 Dec - Jan 6 incl. Twice daily 2.30 & 7.30) Child reductions avail. at most perfs. Limited Season Must End Feb 3

SHAFTESBURY Box Office & cc 379 5399 CC (bkg fee) 379 4444/240 7200/741 9999 Eves 8 Fri & Sat 5 & 8.15 "THE POWER PLAY OF THE YEAR" Std PETER EGAN in M. BUTTERFLY by David Henry Hwang Directed by John Dexter "QUITE BRILLIANT" SMir NOW BOOKING TO APR 1990

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THE ARTS 2

An every Day story

TELEVISION
Clement Freud

One forgets that Robin Day was the Kate Adie of his time: Biafra, Suez, Cuba, the Democrats' Convention of 1960 – you name it, he was there. *A Day to Remember* (BBC 2) traced the great man's career from 18-stone president of the Oxford Union all the way down to his knighthood and beyond. There was one blip: deeply ashamed, looking into the middle distance, even his bow tie drooping at the memory, he said: "I must have been mad." This was a reference to standing unsuccessfully for Parliament as a Liberal in Hereford in the 1959 election.

Had it not been for that defeat, he would probably have sunk without trace, left the Liberals during the Thorpe years, become a junior minister under Thatcher and been sacked for wetness in the early 1980s. Hereford for him was the right place at the wrong time. The experience removed the Oxford smugness and substituted gravitas. After 1960 he stopped saying "Look at me". It was a fine retrospective, of a kind which few people have the chance to see in their own lifetime.

The last of this year's *Travel Show Guides* (BBC 2) told of everything we could possibly want to know about going on holiday between the Loire and the Gironde on the Atlantic coast of Western France. It was television at its most educational, a quintessential briefing for anyone taking Charente Maritime as a subject in *Mastermind*: the price of the toll bridge to Noir Moutier; opportunities for nudism in Oryan; free yellow bikes for tourists in La Rochelle; lack of a barrier on the perimeter wall in Ile d'Oléron, France's second biggest island and the oyster capital of Europe.

Penny Junor, arguably the most acceptable face on our screens, fronts the programme with stunning coolness; not a syllable or an eyelash out of place: one actually longs for Alexei Sayle to come by and do something villainous – though Junor would cope. Matthew Collins is the man who goes there, comes back and tells us – enthusiastically – about a visit to a fish farm. The weatherman explained that the Big Toe test peaked in August, rainfall is similar to that in the East Midlands. He endeared himself to Francophobes by suggesting that one goes in June to avoid the French. Worthy television: saves you reading the guide and buying the slides.

RADIO
Martin Cropper

Some years ago, the magazine *Harpers & Queen* published a feature anatomizing the modern vogue for travel writing, and the consequent shrinking of the territory left available to the serious practitioner. Patagonia had been plundered, the Rockies had been ransacked. Scarcely a blade of African grass had not at some time been subjected to the special brand of irony that the English-speaking itinerant packs next to his quinine tablets. The globe's stock of virgin word-fodder was dangerously depleted.

Real people, too, are venturing further afield. Ticket to Ride (Radio 4, Saturday) revealed that the most popular country represented in its travel-writing competition was Nepal, with France second. Sarah Pope's *The Roquefort Files* recorded a bathetic gourmet holiday in the Languedoc, in which fresh food proved near impossible to obtain.

The culinary high spot of the winning entry had the narrator scraping his Christmas dinner from the ceiling of a yacht caught in a tropical storm. Robert Harrison deserves to be snapped up by *Granta*. His *Atlantic Crossing* bristled with memorable imagery and the kind of laconic humour which was pioneered by Redmond O'Hanlon. The purpose of the trip had been to escape winter in Stoke Newington, where he found social work increasingly fraught by violence; the last straw had been a hold-up by a masked gunman. At landfall, "only one man had gone overboard: the man in the rubber mask."

The competition relied on home-recorded cassettes, which is something radio generally should employ more. Not even *vox pop*, when professionally recorded, can match the immediacy of a voice speaking into an inexpensive tape machine, often coming too near the condenser microphone and always leaving the obvious edits intact. These imperfections actually enhance the listener's enjoyment. There is scope here for a series of programmes composed entirely of amateur contributions (short stories? satires on existing radio?) which would save the BBC a few quid into the bargain.

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The Arts in the Eighties: **David Robinson** on the rise and fall of British cinema and Hollywood's surrender to the teenage market

Fading of a false dawn

When the movie history of the 1980s is written, the most spectacular phenomenon will surely be the rise and fall of the British cinema. In 1980 British feature production had sunk to a then all-time low (according to the records of the British Film and Television Producers' Association) of 32 films. By 1985 the number had risen to 80. In 1989, production sets a new low record of 27 features.

In that period, British cinema enjoyed a brief spell of unprecedented glory, when people on both sides of the Atlantic looked to this country for the most vigorous, innovative and varied activity in contemporary motion pictures.

As the decade began, the disaster of *Raise the Titanic* had hit industry morale badly; but something seemed to be stirring, in a couple of very different low-budget films, John McKenzie's *The Long Good Friday* and Bill Forsyth's *Gregory's Girl*. Then, in 1981, Hugh Hudson's *Chariots of Fire* caught with uncanny exactness the national mood of the moment, and went on to sweep the board at the 1982 Oscars.

This lift to the prestige and morale of British cinema was followed up by the launch of Channel 4, with its commitment to investment in feature films. For the first time in decades there was a sense of continuity in British production: Channel 4 investment guaranteed the regular annual production of at least a dozen modestly-budgeted features.

Ideas and talents rose to the opportunity: the first crop of films included *Angel* and *The Draughtsman's Contract*, co-produced by the British Film Institute, which for years had been nurturing new talents such as Mike Leigh, Peter Greenaway, Bill Douglas and Terence Davies.

Richard Attenborough's *Gandhi* brought more Oscars and morale-lifting in 1983. British films of the next two or three years included *Britannia Hospital*, *Another Time, Another Place*, *A Private Function*, *The Killing Fields*, *My Beautiful Laundrette*, *Moonlighting*, *Letter to Brezhnev*, *Brazil*, *1984*, *A Room With a View*, *Comrades*, *The Mission*, *Sid and Nancy*, *Mona Lisa*.

There really was a British cinema at last. In 1985, with large-scale involvement of American capital, investment in British films reached an unprecedented £300m. Then the Government struck what was to prove a death-blow to the renaissance, with the end of the "capital allowance" arrangement which had permitted write-off of production deficits in any year, on the analogy of outlay on "plant and machinery".

Without this incentive to a risky business, investment had plummeted by 1988 to £126.5m. In 1989 it has dropped still more dramatically, to £64.5m. At the close of the decade nothing short of the kind of positive government support that films receive in other European countries could retrieve the brief glories of British films in the Eighties.

In America the dominant characteristics of the decade have been the explosion of the video-cassette market; huge escalation of budgets; and, for the handful of successes, unprecedented box-office grosses. Of the 10 highest-earning films in history, no less than eight were made in the eighties – the only earlier ones being *Jaws* (1975) and *Star Wars* (1977).

E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial (1982) still stands unbeaten with earnings of $228m. The runners-up, all with well over $100m, are *The Empire Strikes Back* (1980), *Raiders of the Lost Ark* (1981), *Return of the Jedi* (1983), *Ghostbusters* (1984), *Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom* (1984), *Beverly Hills Cop* (1984) and *Back to the Future* (1985). This is likely to change as the count comes in on *Batman*, *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade* and *Return to the Future*.

These titles show how completely the huge American film industry is now ruled by its teenage patrons. In 1985, the venerable American show-business journal *Variety* – more often concerned with box-office returns than with philosophy – reflected, "When the causes of the Decline of Western Civilization are finally writ, Hollywood will surely have to answer why it turned one of man's most significant art forms over to the self-gratification of high-schoolers."

The idols of the decade were Peter Pans such as Michael J. Fox, Rob Lowe or Matt Dillon, going on senility in their twenties, but still able to pass for the same age as their audience; or tough protective big brothers such as Charles Bronson and Sylvester Stallone. The teen audience is nothing if not conservative, obliging Hollywood constantly to rework the same formulas: horror films, high school films, science fiction, occasional sword-and-sorcery, buddy-cop thrillers.

Sequels to successes were symptomatic. *Friday the 13th*, now at part VIII, is in the lead, numerically speaking, followed by *Police Academy 6* and *Nightmare on Elm Street*, *Hallowe'en*, *Star Trek* and *Beverly Hills Cop*, all at their fifth coming.

A few American directors still fought to stay adult, among them Martin Scorsese with *Raging Bull* and *After Hours*; Oliver Stone with *Salvador* and *Platoon*, and Woody Allen, with a run of great comedies: *Zelig*, *Broadway Danny Rose*, *The Purple Rose of Cairo*, *Hannah and her Sisters*, *Radio Days*. Grown-up talents are still emerging in Hollywood: the playwright David Mamet with *House of Games* and *Things Change* and Steven Soderbergh with *sex, lies and videotape*.

A scene from Lindsay Anderson's *Britannia Hospital*: one of Britain's glories and one of David Robinson's 10 best films of the past decade

Elsewhere in the world, films reflected political upheavals. Argentina after the generals developed a new militant cinema. China had a brief fine flowering before the events of '89 crushed the new progressives. In the Soviet Union, *perestroika* brought banned films off the shelves to shed new light on history, but has so far failed to stimulate a new cinema to suit the changed world.

The dominant impulse in Western Europe at the end of the decade is an enthusiastic but still somewhat unformed ambition for a pan-European cinema to battle against Hollywood colonialism.

What makes the game of naming the top ten of the decade so hard is setting the rules. Should they represent an absolute best (if such a thing were possible to determine)? Or the films that most accurately reflect the era? Or simply personal favourites? My best of the Eighties is an idiosyncratic mixture of the three, in no special order:

Kagemusha (Akira Kurosawa, Japan), **Mephisto** (István Szabó, Hungary), **Britannia Hospital** (Lindsay Anderson, GB), **Broadway Danny Rose** (Woody Allen, USA), **Fanny and Alexander** (Ingmar Bergman, Sweden), **The Sacrifice** (Andrei Tarkovsky, Sweden), **Au Revoir, les Enfants** (Louis Malle, France), **Distant Voices, Still Lives** (Terence Davies, GB), **Field of Dreams** (Phil Alden Robinson, USA), **Dekalog** (Krzysztof Kieslowski, Poland).

Happy viewing for the last Christmas of the Eighties!

MARILYN KINGWILL

Comic moment: Ronald (Griff Rhys Jones) with Cherry (Sonia Ritter)

Jeremy Kingston

Thark
Lyric, Hammersmith

Sir Hector is a gruff master of men, finely acted by Landen with vigour and teeth, and the confident air of a chap who trusts that the buck he passes to some other fellow cannot come back to him. Contrasting with his relatively straightforward character, Ronald's is a highly original mixture of manic fast-thinking and bully. Travers lavishes his marvellous gift for verbal fantasy upon Ronald. E.M. Forster described the poet Cavafy as standing at a slight angle to the universe but Ronald hits it at 90 degrees, and Jones gives him the essential quality of self-certainty streaked with panic.

He delivers the crushing put-downs, with marvellously just emphasis, never exaggerating the comedy while at the same time suggesting an inner world that is as peculiar as his grammar is perfect.

Travers is an author who will not take an idiom for granted but sees what makes it tick. "Wild horses couldn't drag me away." Ronald tells his girl, then pauses, but only for an instant before continuing: "Well, they could if there were a lot of them."

James's production whirls the clever nonsense along at impressive speed, enlivening the stage directions with much inventive business. Where the text says the parlour maid "wriggles her shoulders apprehensively", the shimmy-shake Eva Griffith gives hers briefly evokes an entire personality.

For this year's Christmas treat the Lyric has gone fishing in the pool of farces past and come up with this corker by Ben Travers. Farces do not always age well – this one is vintage 1927 – and even some of the dozen or so that Travers, the master farce man, wrote for Tom Walls and Ralph Lynn at the Aldwych have turned out to be dud on revival.

Thark, however, is top stuff, well plotted, equipped with credible complications (incredible ones are the mark of bad farce) and acted for all its mad worth in Peter James's strongly cast production.

Within a few moments of the curtain going up on the library of Sir Hector Benbow's flat in Mayfair the dialogue hints at the confusions to come. Sir Hector (Dinsdale Landen) has invited a pretty shopgirl to dinner. But also due to make her appearance is *nouveau-riche* Mrs Frush (Linda Polan), come to complain about ghosts at Thark, the manor house that Sir Hector has sold her. His nephew Ronald (Griff Rhys Jones) is ordered to take one of the women out of the way, whereupon Lady Benbow (Helen Lindsay) and Kitty (Belinda Lang), the girl Ronald loves, unexpectedly arrive.

The plot ingeniously devotes itself to finding ways to leave Ronald and Cherry, the shopgirl, (Sonia Ritter) alone on the stage where Kitty shall discover them. The third act takes most of the company down to grimly baronial Thark, ending with Landen and Jones sharing the double bed in the haunted bedroom – the scene that has left its mark on a thousand pantos.

Sexual smash-and-grab raid on Goldsmith

THEATRE
Irving Wardle

She Stoops to Conquer
Royal Exchange, Manchester

Eighteenth-century comedy generally assumes that life in the country is busier than in town – a fact fully acknowledged in James Maxwell's boisterous production, though it does leave you wondering whether the chief aim is to protect the everyday reality of the Hardcastle family, or to give the cast plenty to do.

In place of the usual opening scene of sedentary bickering, we find Mrs Hardcastle petulantly pacing about in a fancy housecoat *à la Marie Antoinette* while her work-stained spouse energetically prepares for the grand visitors. Later on, a clothes rack descends so that laundry can be hurled over the set: and when the furniture is sent flying in the last act, Kate and Marlow enact their tender interview while re-arranging all the tables and chairs.

In other ways, too, this is an uncommonly physical revival; not least in the case of Una Stubbs's Mrs Hardcastle, who comes over more as a child bride than a primping old relic, receiving many an uxorious hug that takes the edge off the quarrel. Even after this, it is a shock to see her debating London fashions with Hastings, whom she has only just met, in coy *déshabillé*, responding with delight when he tickles her under the chin. This is not what the scene is about, the visitors seem to have mistaken the house for a brothel as well as an inn.

As for the lovers, Karen Drury's Constance is the hoydenish equal of Andy Serkis's Tony Lumpkin – alternately thumping and chasing him, or pulling him to the floor for mock-lascivious embraces to gratify his match-making parent. Kate and Marlow (Lorraine Ashbourne and Peter Lindford), after their bashfully genteel introduction, get down to business with a sequence of steamily erotic encounters, which finally leave Kate stretched out exhausted on a bench at her father's inconvenient arrival.

The usual comment, when classical comedy is overtaken by sexual smash-and-grab, is that it reveals the youth of the characters. So it does here, but at the expense of the crucial antithesis between sentimental and natural values, and also at the expense of the dialogue. With so much bounce to look at, you stop listening.

So much for carping. Directed by a founder member of the Royal Exchange, the production takes full advantage of this stage's particular resources. Tony's circular drive through the local quagmires to land his mother home in her own garden, takes place with the audible clatter of hoofs and cries of alarm round the outer perimeter of the theatre while the housebound action continues on stage. The incident of the filched jewel box prompts a hazardous game of catch, with Constance's inheritance flying between the importunate Tony on ground level and the reluctant Hastings up in the circle. David Millard's set consists simply of an oak floor, which looks as if it has been there for a hundred years and is *quite* enough to evoke Goldsmith's "old-fashioned house".

The production is solidly centred on Ewan Hooper's Mr Hardcastle, the most complicated character in the piece, and played here with a weight and delicacy that brings out its warmth, fair-mindedness, and sense of fun no less than its stick-in-the-mud habits and blimpish rages. The production takes time to get into its stride, but by the time the comic mechanism is fully wound up, the deranged collapse of Stubbs, the head-beating chagrin of Lindford, and the triumph of Ashbourne are a joy to behold.

JOHN PETERS

Solid centre: Ewan Hooper as Mr Hardcastle in *She Stoops to Conquer*

Growing comic success

DANCE
John Percival

Hobson's Choice
Sadler's Wells

There were shouts for an encore after the comic Morris dance in the last act of *Hobson's Choice* at the Wells on Thursday. Michael O'Hare, playing Will Mossop, was obviously nonplussed as the applause went on and on. I think they should have given one, in keeping with the air of jubilation, but good order prevailed.

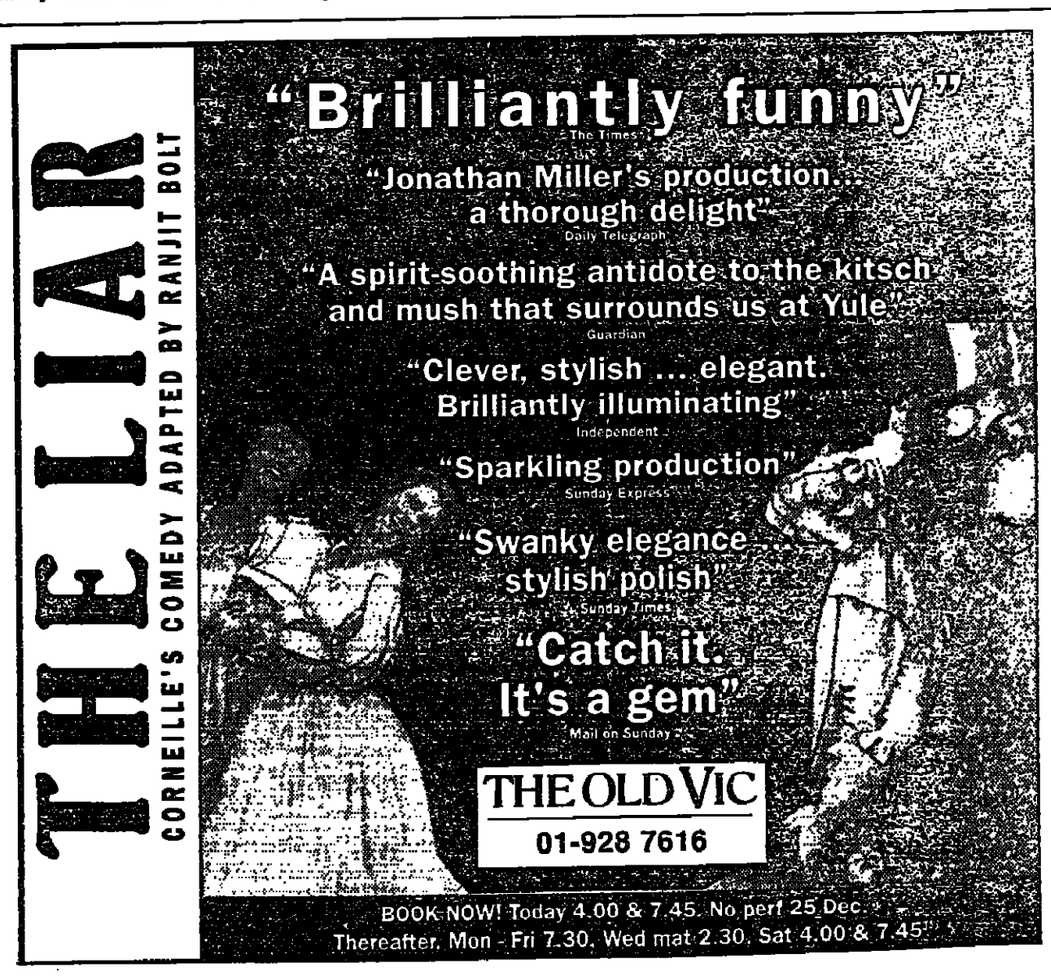
David Bintley and Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet have a big hit on their hands. There are some who accuse this dance adaptation of Harold Brighouse's famous play of being too like musical comedy. Well, it is by definition a comedy set to music, and what is supposed to be so wrong with a good musical?

Originally done in two acts at Covent Garden earlier this year, it benefits from an extra interval neatly dividing the long first act. Those who saw it at the Opera House will miss the surprises achieved there by the use of trap doors, but the compromise substitutes work well enough, and perhaps details of the acting benefit from being seen in this smaller auditorium.

Stephen Lade was in charge of the spirited account of Paul Reade's lively score, with its many quotations and imitations serving to increase the charm and the humour. The orchestra rightly shared in the ovation at the end.

The original cast danced the first night: all of them thoroughly at ease in roles that were made-to-measure. Karen Donovan's Maggie has a nicely judged sweet-sour quality to make a man of her unlikely match, and O'Hare grows up visibly in her hands – literally so, in that it is Maggie who takes the lead in all their duets. Desmond Kelly makes the comparatively small role of Old Hobson seem larger than it is.

Almost everyone else on stage deserves individual credit, but I must keep my plaudits for Sandra Madgwick and Chenca Williams as Maggie's snobby sisters, and for Joseph Cipolla and Stephen Wicks as their two hopeful but slightly gormless suitors: a splendid quartet of well-matched performances.



BOOKS

Padded history with all the frills

Once men wore the skirts; now women wear the trousers.

Victoria Glendinning peruses a dedicated follower of fashion

It may disturb manly men to know that the basic item of the Englishman's wardrobe is, frankly, the frock – even when it is called a tunic, a gown, a doublet, a robe or an houppelande. This puts transvestism is a new light, as a manifestation of our glorious heritage. You might be able to apply for a grant. In the 14th century, sober professional gentlemen wore mini-skirts and tights, exactly like dollybirds in the 1960s. Their tights were secured so tautly somewhere up under their frocks that they could not kneel in church, a contemporary wag said, for fear of "horting their hose".

Buttons were big too, in all senses, in the 14th century. The earliest reference to buttons, or "botounz", in the *OED* is dated 1340, which seems to be spot on; in *The Visual History of Costume* there is a picture of a franklin of the 1350s with hippie-length hair, buttons all the way down his mini-dress from neck to hem, and up the sleeves from wrist to elbow. This book covers dress in England from 1300 to more or less the present day, which accounts for the speeded-up view of fashion that emerges from a study of its 200 illustrations (with captions, a glossary, and an introduction). It is a condensed version of six more detailed volumes published by Batsford over the past four years.

The impression that emerges for the non-specialist is that men's clothes were ostentatious to the point of silliness from the 16th century to the beginning of the 19th. At the point where men ceased to be fashion victims, and their clothes became sensible and boring, women's clothes became silly, and remained so for a century. We are talking about rich people. Not until the 20th century, with teddy boys and then punks, did street people have any effect on fashion. The poor used to wear cast-offs, home-made frocks, and bits of unshaped material wound round themselves.

The problem for men has always been what one might call access to the fork. Henry VIII sports the first of many startling codpieces illustrated in this book. His frock is no longer closed down to the thigh; but he tastefully had the codpiece covered in matching material. With Henry, everything began to bulge. Huge padded folds of velvet and brocade made his shoulders broader than they were. Maybe it was good to be fat, because it meant you were prosperous; 16th-century men had "peascod bellies" – stiff convex fronts to their doublets, which made them look pregnant. The Earl of Surrey in 1550 was wearing short skirts and a showy codpiece over Bermuda shorts, which they called trunk hose in those days. Gathered about the knee, these shorts were soon to be pleated, puffed, wadded, slashed, and swollen by understructures of

THE VISUAL HISTORY OF COSTUME
By Aileen Ribeiro & Valerie Cumming
Batsford, £25

cane, metal, or even wood. Gentlemen came gift-wrapped, with rosettes of spangled ribbon on their shoes as big as footballs. The gorgeous materials were of better quality than the tailoring. The silk brocades, embroideries and velvets were so sumptuous – which means costly – that sections of garments were altered, turned, recycled, tacked, and cobbled together like a theatrical wardrobe of today.

Charles I was very avant-garde, with his hair long on one side and cut short on the other. By the mid-17th century the shorts had become trews, with lace frills or ribbons below the knee, like Kate Greenaway nymphets, and high-heeled, crumpled leather fashion-boots over the tights. It's a relief to reach the 18th century – massive wigs (with skinhead haircuts underneath), and long embroidered waistcoats and jackets, to divert attention from the bottom half. By the time we get to Byron and the dandyish young Disraeli, recognizable trousers, with straps under the instep, have come in.

With tight breeches and trousers, the problem of the fork became more pressing. Portraits indicate a delicate vagueness of folds and creases. The buttoned fly was invented in the early 1820s, and was general by the 1840s (like the top hat), though some gents still preferred the "fall front" – a flap of material that buttoned at the waist. Isambard Kingdom Brunel, a cocksparrow of a man photographed in 1857, is wearing a three-piece suit which would not excite attention today – except that the thick wool cloth is baggy and creased and looks as if it smelled strongly.

Once the Englishman had discovered the sober suit, the Englishwoman let rip with the crinoline. The posture and decorum of Victorian ladies was enforced by layers of stiffening, padding and wiring. You had to sit down carefully, on the edge of the chair, so that the crinoline would telescope neatly at the back and not fly up to reveal your legs. You had to sit up straight because you were encased in rigid corsets from the thighs up. When they got tired of the crinoline, they pulled the skirt material back over the rump, draping and taping the bulky swags over wire framework and horsehair wadding. This was the bustle. The skirt was so tight in front that it was hard to walk. To balance the nonsense in the rear, the bosom was padded into a unified cushion-like hemisphere. This was not dress, it was a cross between engineering and upholstery.

Yet in 1908, when Harrods advertisements were still featuring pouter-pigeon bosoms and flowing robes overburdened with ruches and braid, Poiret was showing simple, tubular evening dresses which would look good today. Similarly, a Chanel jumper suit of 1926 looks completely contemporary. What has happened since is that we wear less clothes, and lighter clothes, and women's dress for everyday is not much different from men's. They used to wear skirts, like us. Now we can wear trousers, like them. Make what you can of that.

Still haunted by the singular rhythms of a poet lost too young

POETRY
Robert Nye

THE AIR BETWEEN
Poems of Clere Parsons (1908-1931)
Cloudforms No.2: 48 Biddlestone Road, Heaton, Newcastle upon Tyne NE6 5SL, £4.50

There is a sonnet by Keats that celebrates *calmest thoughts* and ends with three images emblematic of such thoughts – *the gradual sand that through an hour glass runs,/A woodland rivulet, – a Poet's Death.* I daresay Keats had himself in mind, or Chatterton in the generation before his.

Reading the lines now, latter-day romantics might well think of Hart Crane or Sylvia Plath. The death of such poets is in some fashion more significant than the mere cessation of breath, and peculiarly touching.

To those who know his work, Clere Parsons comes in the same category. Parsons was an English poet who died (from pneumonia and diabetes) in 1931, aged only 23. His promise was recognized by T.S. Eliot, who had Faber bring out a small posthumous volume the next year.

Since then his memory has been kept alive by fellow poets such as Geoffrey Grigson and C.H. Sisson, who have written in appreciation of what amounts to a slight but distinctive talent. Grigson, who knew Parsons, once told me that if there were unpublished poems by him then these would be in the keeping of his widow Sonia, only she had become a nun beyond the reach of letters.

However that may be, here is a little book titled *The Air Between: Poems of Clere Parsons (1908-1931)*, with an introduction by T.W. Sutherland, and an afterword by Edouard Roditi, which is certainly the only substantial printed gathering of Parsons' verse since the Faber book. As it comes decorated with drawings by Ceri Richards, Bryan Winter, Roger Hilton, Anna Zemankova and Martin Froy, and is decently produced, I can imagine that it will soon sell out its limited and numbered edition of 500 copies, and become a collector's item.

But how good was Clere Parsons? Some of his poems (e.g. "Different") merely suggest that he had an ear for the best available influences of his day. Others read like diary jottings, notes for some "Song of Myself" which he has never given time enough to complete or carry through. Yet to say this is to feel the need to affirm in the same breath that Parsons had *something* – a tone, a mode of address, a confidence in the significance of his own experience, however limited – and that this same something flashes forth from these pages as freshly as ever more than 50 years after his death, and despite all the intervening critical neglect.

As he wrote in one of his last poems:

Some melody of words continues on

That particular poem is good, but Parsons' best and most sustained statement is without doubt the ironically titled "Suburban Nature Piece", 11 five-lined stanzas of rhymed iambic pentameters celebrating the upthrust of spring, in a style at once deliberately antique and gallantly personal:

April who dost abet me with sky smiles
If I made bold by amorous fancy touch
Suddenly with my lips thy shining lips which
Are the smooth tulip and chaste crocus bulb
Lady be swift to pardon me this much

Here, as elsewhere, a sly classical humour is at work in the service of truth, distancing passion with cool phrases, turning away from the reader in the direction of some subject matter which is never quite stated, but which seems to me to imply the poet's own early death. *We are not yet collected works dear . . .*

Still not quite collected works (the present text relies entirely on previously printed sources), the poems of Clere Parsons remain alive in a manner never achieved by most of his contemporaries who persisted longer.

The singular rhythms and deliberate poise of his mind haunt and detach the memory out of all proportion to the few things he had the chance to say.

His perilous dignity is sure
The master of a green accord
Between flesh and the pulse of nature

I would not care to count the number of lines he wrote that I find it hard now to forget.

The victor of Beda Fomm

Would Rommel and Montgomery have won fame in the Western Desert if Dick O'Connor had done a Nelson after destroying the Italian Army in Cyrenaica? Had he continued his advance on Tripoli, might he have pre-empted the arrival of Rommel's Afrika Korps? But even if he had failed to reach Tripoli in time to stop the Germans landing, would he have defeated Rommel in the subsequent desert battles? These are the questions that John Baynes tries to answer in this first well-argued biography of one of the few British generals to shine during the disastrous opening phases of the Second World War.

William Jackson

THE FORGOTTEN VICTOR
General Sir Richard O'Connor
By John Baynes
Brasseys, £15.95

His book falls into three parts. In the first, Baynes examines O'Connor's brilliant performance in training and leading the Western Desert Force, which surprised Graziani's invading army at Sidi Barrani, and drove it helter-skelter out of Egypt; took Bardia and Tobruk; and then cut off and captured the whole of the Italian Tenth Army at Beda Fomm, just south of Benghazi, at the beginning of February 1941. His small force of 31,000 British, Australian, and Indian troops put some 130,000 Italians into the bag.

O'Connor always regretted that he did not race on to seize Tripoli. Unlike Nelson at Copenhagen, he referred back to his C-in-C, General Wavell, in Cairo, and was told not only to halt, but to return his most experienced troops to Egypt for the abortive attempt to save Greece. He was promoted Commander British Troops, Egypt.

Rommel landed at Tripoli just five days after Beda Fomm, and started his counter-offensive early in April, throwing the scratch force that Wavell had left to garrison Cyrenaica into chaotic withdrawal. O'Connor was sent back to Cyrenaica to sort out the shambles, but arrived too late to save the day, and was captured, by mischance, for his pains.

The second part deals with O'Connor's captivity in Italy, and his three attempts to escape, the last of which was successful. This is by far the best part of the book, because it is not encumbered with the details of O'Connor's battles, and because it holds some of the clues to the questions the author is trying to answer.

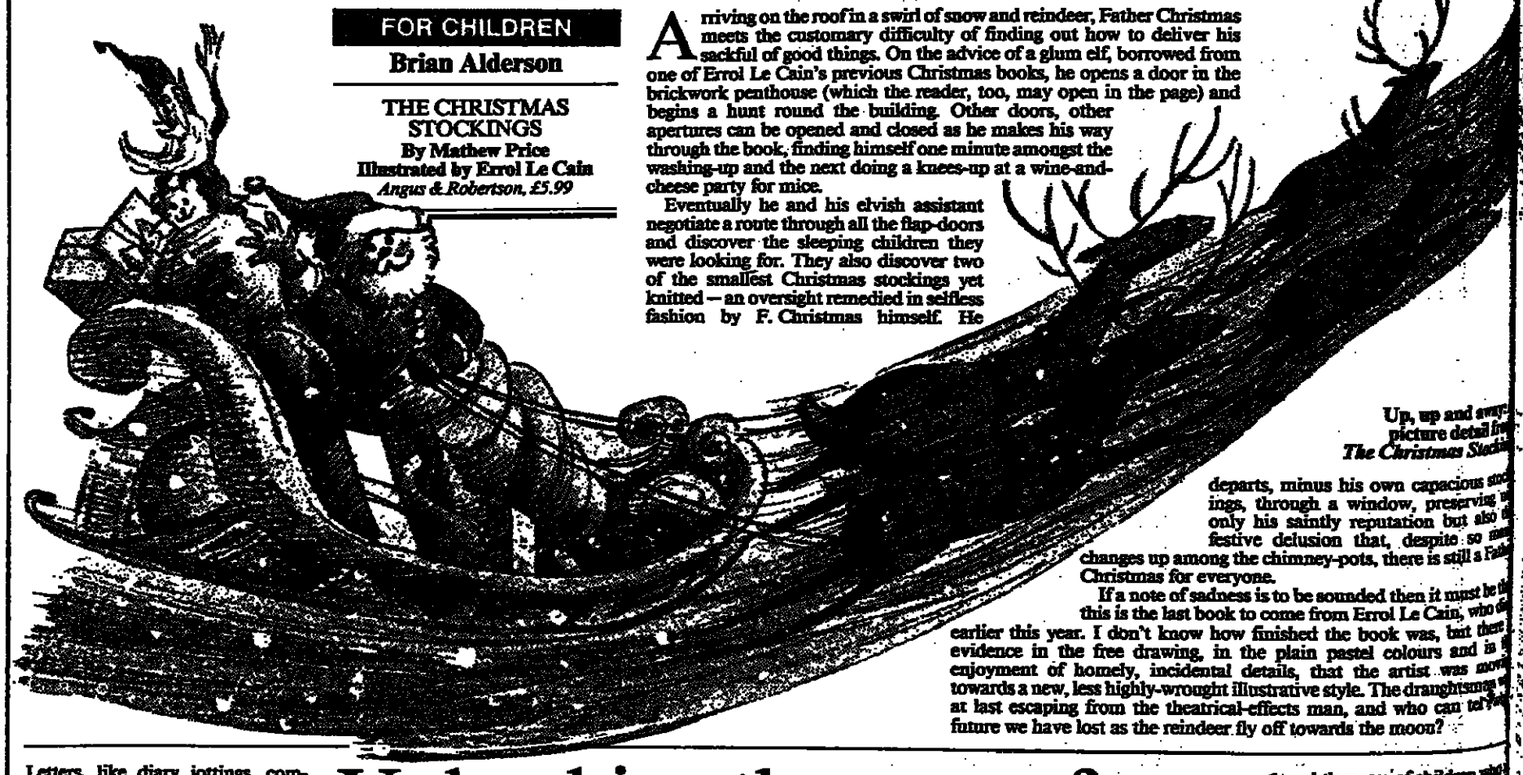
The third part covers his subsequent career. Within a month of his escape, in December 1943, he was in command of VIII Corps, preparing for the invasion of Normandy. Despite two and a half years in captivity, he handled his corps competently in the beachhead battles – Epsom, Goodwood, Bluecoat and Constellation – but he was no longer in his prime, and his handling of the Goodwood battle was certainly open to justifiable criticism. After taking part in the winter battles in the Rhineland, he was sent to India to command Eastern and then Northern Command. O'Connor returned to England to become Adjutant-General when Montgomery was CIGS. O'Connor retired from the Army in 1947, after Montgomery had failed to support him in a clash with the Labour government.

John Baynes rightly concludes that the unquantifiable effects of his long sojourn in Castello Vincigliata, above Florence, did take the edge off his outstanding military abilities. More damaging was the loss of battle experience that his contemporaries were then acquiring. But nothing can rob him of his place in history as the victor of Beda Fomm.

'Twas the night before Christmas . . .

FOR CHILDREN
Brian Alderson

THE CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS
By Mathew Price
Illustrated by Errol Le Cain
Angus & Robertson, £5.99



Arriving on the roof in a swirl of snow and reindeer, Father Christmas meets the customary difficulty of finding out how to deliver his sackful of good things. On the advice of a glum elf, borrowed from one of Errol Le Cain's previous Christmas books, he opens a door in the brickwork penthouse (which the reader, too, may open in the page) and begins a hunt round the building. Other doors, other apertures can be opened and closed as he makes his way through the book, finding himself one minute amongst the washing-up and the next doing a knees-up at a wine-and-cheese party for mice.

Eventually he and his elvish assistant negotiate a route through all the flap-doors and discover the sleeping children they were looking for. They also discover two of the smallest Christmas stockings yet knitted – an oversight remedied in selfless fashion by F. Christmas himself. He departs, minus his own capacious stockings, through a window, preserving not only his saintly reputation but also the festive delusion that, despite so many changes up among the chimney-pots, there is still a Father Christmas for everyone.

Up, up and away – picture detail from *The Christmas Stocking*

If a note of sadness is to be sounded then it must be that this is the last book to come from Errol Le Cain, who died earlier this year. I don't know how finished the book was, but there is evidence in the free drawing, in the plain pastel colours and in the enjoyment of homely, incidental details, that the artist was moving towards a new, less highly-wrought illustrative style. The draughtsman was at last escaping from the theatrical-effects man, and who can tell what future we have lost as the reindeer fly off towards the moon?

Unleashing the pens of war

Leon Pilpel

ARE WE AT WAR?
Letters to *The Times*, 1939-1945
Edited by Anthony Livesey
Times Books, £10.95

Letters, like diary jottings, commonly lose much of their force when the impetus that gave them their spring has abated. An exception seems to be the effect of war, perhaps because in modern times it seems so all-embracing; equally because it is often so bizarre. The villager cited in this collection who remarked: "Oh well, if the Germans win, at any rate I have my pension, and they can't touch that," was either inordinately phlegmatic or amazingly stupid; but now we can afford a chuckle at the sheer humanity of it.

A letters editor at once recognizes familiar themes running through this distant correspondence that give it a continuing freshness. There is the complaint about payment (at £2 or £3 a week, no less) for those supposed to be engaged on air-raid precautions, and who, quite understandably, did nothing during the "phoney war" period, to the annoyance of "genuine workers in the country whose ordinary wages are under £2".

Those who have lately been following the exploits of *Dad's Army* on television may regret to discover that the decision to disband the Home Guard in 1944 led to ill-tempered letters on whether "orders for the discontinuance of compulsory parades should have been given over the radio instead of through the proper military channels", and whether every man should be allowed to keep his boots.

There were complaints about the carriage of gas masks in the remote countryside, the draconian nature of the blackout in towns, while electric trains in suburban open stretches could be traced by their flashes, of evacuated mothers billeted with small children, expecting to have everything done for them; and always in the background the mutter and grumble of real war, with its horrors, tedium, and threat.

We were significantly different then in many ways, with our masks, identity cards, ration books for food and clothing; but we could still ponder the prospective benefits of universal family allowances, the thoughtlessness of children who in buses while working women stood, and the way those who crawled down streets emptied of traffic by petrol rationing just they could keep to their schedules.

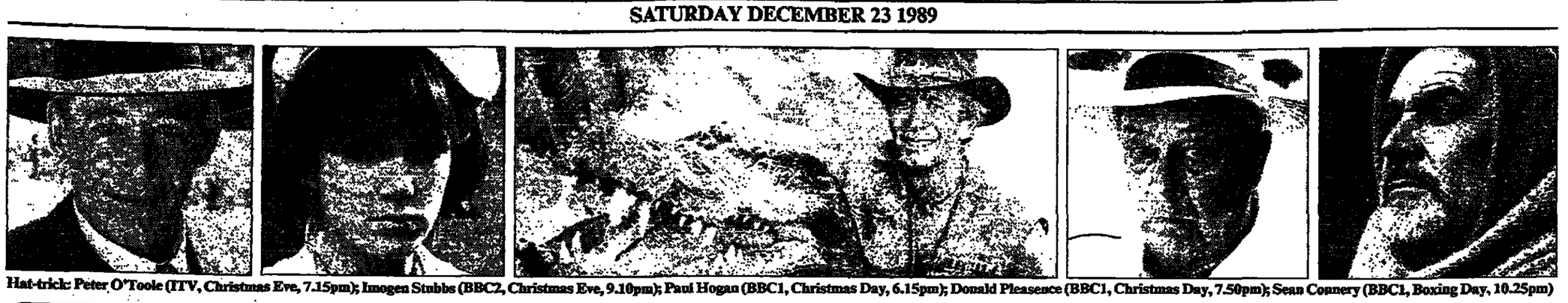
There is seldom much really in correspondence columns that unexpected is a constant delight. One writer records an English woman thanking an Irish friend for a gift of eggs and adding: "I wish you would send me a cow." The censor returned the letter with injunction: "Import of cattle England from Eire by private individuals is not permitted." special sense of idiocy continues distinguish bottom right-hand ters on the pages down to this d

Compiled by Peter Dear and Gillian Maxey

TELEVISION & RADIO

● A FOUR DAY GUIDE FOR CHRISTMAS

SATURDAY DECEMBER 23 1989



Hat-trick: Peter O'Toole (ITV, Christmas Eve, 7.15pm); Imogen Stubbs (BBC2, Christmas Eve, 9.10pm); Paul Hogan (BBC1, Christmas Day, 6.15pm); Donald Pleasence (BBC1, Christmas Day, 7.50pm); Sean Connery (BBC1, Boxing Day, 10.25pm)

BBC 1

7.30 Saturday Starts Here! with Wayne Jackman and Ian Tregonning, beginning with **Playbus** (r) **7.55 Jimbo and the Jet Set** (r) **8.00 Mersey Tales.** Shirin Taylor tells the story *After Dark*, by Nick McIvor **8.05 New Adventures of Mighty Mouse 8.20 ChuckleVision 8.35 Thundercats** (r)

9.00 Going Live! Joining Sarah Greene and Phillip Schofield for their Christmas special are *Bread* stars Jean Boht and Graham Bickley and comedians Little and Large **12.12 Weather**

12.15 Grandstand presented by Desmond Lynam. The line-up is (subject to alteration): **12.20 Skiing:** the women's downhill from Panorama, Canada; **12.35, 1.05, 1.30** and **4.00 Amateur Boxing:** England v Ireland from the Coventry Sports Centre; **12.45, 1.15, 1.50 (Welsh Grand National)** and **2.25 Racing from Chepstow; 1.00 News; 2.10** and **3.10 Rugby League:** live coverage of the first semifinal of the Regal Trophy; **4.40 Final Score**

5.05 News with Chris Lowe. Weather **5.15** Regional news and sport

5.20 Bob's Full House. A seasonal edition of the bingo quiz game. (Ceefax)

6.00 Film: Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom (1984) starring Harrison Ford. In this second in the trilogy of fantasy comedy adventures an intrepid archaeologist and his two companions go in search of the sacred Sankara stone of India and uncover an ancient evil force. Directed by Steven Spielberg. (Ceefax)

7.55 The Les Dennis Christmas Laughter Show featuring *White Christmas at the Holiday Inn.* Les puts on his version of the classic Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers musical, but somehow the dances, the weather and even the food aren't quite up to scratch. (Ceefax)

8.30 Last of the Summer Wine. Despite financial snags, Compo is determined to show his affection for Nora Batty by giving her a present at the Christmas party. But after visiting the perfume counter and then the jewellery section of a department store, Compo realizes the enormity of his task. (Ceefax)

9.20 News with Martyn Lewis. **Weather**

9.35 Film: Death on the Nile (1978) starring Peter Ustinov. Agatha Christie's whodunnit, set aboard a Nile cruiser. An heiress on honeymoon with the man who was her best friend's fiancé is murdered, but Detective Hercule Poirot finds that almost everyone on board could have done the deed and had a motive for doing it. Directed by John Guillermin. (Ceefax)

11.50 Dave Brubeck. The veteran jazz pianist recorded in concert in July 1987, with his quartet and the Montreal Symphony Orchestra

12.40am Film: The Third Man (1949 b/w) starring Joseph Cotten, Orson Welles and Trevor Howard. Atmospheric mystery thriller about a man who arrives in Vienna after the Second World War to find the friend he was going to work for is dead. He becomes involved in drug-trafficking between the divided war settlement zones of Britain, America, France and the Soviet Union. Directed by Carol Reed. (Ceefax)

2.20 Weather

ITV/LONDON

6.00 TV-am begins with **News** and **It's Stardust.** Children's entertainment presented by Alvin Stardust; **7.00 News** followed by **Animals in Action; 7.30 WAC 90** with Tommy Boyd and Michaela Strachan; **9.20 News**

9.25 Motormouth 2 at Christmas. This Christmas special includes guests Sinitta, Big Fun, Brother Beyond and Fuzzbox, and the second part of the Kylie Minogue interview, including footage of her in action on her latest tour

11.30 The ITV Chart Show. The Vintage Video features Bruce Springsteen

12.30 A.L.F. Comedy adventures of an Alien Life Form

1.00 News with Sue Carpenter. Weather **1.05 LWT News** and weather

1.10 Saint and Greavsie. Ian St John and Jimmy Greaves review the week's football news and look forward to this afternoon's game between Liverpool and Manchester United

1.40 First Division Special. Live coverage from Anfield of the game between Liverpool and Manchester United. The commentator is Martin Tyler with expert comment from former United manager Ron Atkinson

3.50 Coronation Street (r) **4.45 Cartoon**

5.00 News with Sue Carpenter. Weather **5.10 LWT News** and weather

5.15 The Disney Christmas Special. Favourite cartoon characters and guests including Tom Jones, 5 Star and Ruth Pointer

6.45 Catchphrase Celebrity Special. Roy Walker invites *Hi De Hi!*'s Su Pollard, Paul Shane, Ruth Madoc and Geoffrey Holland to compete against Nick Owen, Debbie Rix, Christopher Biggins and Steve Nallon in this special charity edition of the guessing game show. (Oracle)

7.15 Cliff Richard - The Event. The evergreen singer celebrates 30 years in the business with a summer concert at Wembley Stadium

8.15 Blind Date. Cilla Black offers two more contestants the chance to meet their dream dates. (Oracle)

9.10 London's Burning: Ding Dong Merrily. Blue Watch prepares for the extra work that the festive season inevitably brings. Starring Rupert Baker. (Oracle)

10.40 News with Sue Carpenter. Weather **10.55 LWT Weather**

11.00 Music of the Night: The Songs of Andrew Lloyd Webber. A celebration of the work of composer Andrew Lloyd Webber recorded at London's Dominion Theatre. Among those appearing are Jose Carreras, Marti Webb and Stephanie Lawrence

12.05am Saturday Night at the Movies presented by Tony Slattery

12.30 Film: Red Alert (1977) starring William Devane, Ralph Waite and Michael Brandon. A nuclear power plant shuts down when a radiation leak is wrongly detected, but time is running out for the 14 technicians who are trapped inside the plant. Directed by William Hale

2.15 The Comedy Store. Chris Tarrant introduces Britain's top alternative comedians from the famous Comedy Store in London, including Arthur Smith, Kit and the Widow, the Calypso Twins and Kit Hollerbach

3.15 Film: The Face of a Stranger (1978) starring Stephen Collins and Kathleen Quinlan. A student, badly disfigured in a car crash, attempts to start her life again following plastic surgery. Directed by Gilbert Cates.

5.05 ITN Morning News with Anne Leuchars. Ends at **6.00**

TODAY'S PROGRAMMES

BBC 2

8.40 Buck Rogers (b/w). Episode one of *Tomorrow's World.* Starring Buster Crabbe

9.00 Flash Gordon Conquers the Universe (b/w). The first part of an adventure, *The Purple Death.*

9.20 Film: Holiday Inn (1942 b/w) starring Bing Crosby, Fred Astaire and Virginia Dale. Irving Berlin war-time musical about a performer who leaves his song-and-dance trio with dreams of turning his holiday retreat into an inn to put on public shows. Directed by Mark Sandrich.

10.55 World Professional Darts. Highlights of the 1989 Embassy final between Jocky Wilson and Eric Bristow

12.10 Moscow State Circus 1988. From Battersea Park, London, a feast of spectacular entertainment recorded from the circus's visit last year (r)

1.25 Film: Hamlet (1948 b/w) starring Laurence Olivier, Jean Simmons, Felix Aylmer, Basil Sydney and Eileen Herlie. Four Oscars-winning version of Shakespeare's tragedy, directed by Laurence Olivier.

3.50 A Rose for Winter. The first of Laurie Lee's two-part autobiographical account of his experiences when returning to Andalusia with his bride in 1951 to retrace the journey he made before the Spanish Civil War broke out, 15 years earlier. Tonight he recalls their journey from Gibraltar to Algeciras

4.45 Film: The Jazz Singer (1980) starring Neil Diamond, Laurence Olivier and Lucie Arnaz. Powerful musical drama about a Jewish New Yorker who dreams of becoming a singer and composer, knowing he is expected to take over as cantor at his father's synagogue. Directed by Richard Fleischer. (Ceefax)

6.35 Carols from King's. Celebrating Christmas at home this year are the choir of King's College, Cambridge

7.35 Revolution! Jim Broadbent and Patrick Barlow, alias the National Theatre of Brent, perform with their own brand of humour and an enormous sense of imagination the events leading up to the French Revolution (r). (Ceefax)

8.30 The Late Show Annual. This arts review of the year looks back at Salmari Rushdie in the studio defending *The Satanic Verses*, Alan Goldsworthy sculpting in ice at the North Pole, Alexei Sayle's ever-so-useful guide to 10 things to do with a redundant satellite dish, and the Stone Roses's shortest television appearance

10.30 The Film Club. Paul Levy, food correspondent of the *Observer*, introduces tonight's Japanese movie **Tampopo** (1986) starring Tsutomu Yamazaki and Ken Watanabe. Satirical Japanese 'foodie' film about two truck drivers who come to the rescue of a young widow unable to cope with the running of her restaurant. Directed by Juzo Itami. In Japanese with English subtitles

12.25am Film: Brute Force (1947 b/w) starring Burt Lancaster and Charles Bickford. Powerful drama about a convict at Westgate Penitentiary who decides to break out, but whose main obstacle is a sadistic, scheming prison officer with ruthless ways of getting things done. Directed by Jules Dassin. Ends at **2.05**

CHANNEL 4

6.00 Just 4 Fun 6.30 Christopher's Christmas Mission (r) **7.00 Christmas Tree Train** (r) **7.30 International Times — World News**

8.00 Trans World Sport

9.00 Channel 4 Racing: The Morning Line. A review of the week's races, plus a guide to today's meetings **9.25 On the Twelfth Day.** A short film bringing the 12 days of Christmas to life (r) **9.50 Nicolette.** A portrait of a disabled international swimmer (r)

10.20 Film: The Batman (1943, b/w) starring Lewis Wilson. Episode one of a 15-part story about the adventures of millionaire Bruce Wayne who leads a secret life fighting crime in the guise of Batman. Directed by Lambert Hillyer

10.50 Film: Road to Zanzibar (1941 b/w) starring Bob Hope, Bing Crosby and Dorothy Lamour. Two American carnival entertainers in Africa are persuaded to help two women locate a diamond mine. Directed by Victor Schertzinger.

12.30 Film: The Holly and the Ivy (1952 b/w) starring Ralph Richardson, Celia Johnson and Margaret Leighton. A Norfolk parson's family gathers to celebrate Christmas in the vicarage, but the season of goodwill is disturbed when a number of secrets come to light. Directed by George More O'Ferrall.

2.00 Anne of Green Gables. Episode one of a two-part adaptation of L. M. Montgomery's novel set in Canada at the turn of the century (r). (Oracle) **3.50 Playful Robot**

4.05 Le Cirque Imaginaire. A visit to the unusual circus run by Victoria Chaplin and husband Jean-Baptiste Thierrée

5.05 Brookside (r). (Oracle)

6.00 Right To Reply

6.30 A Walk up Fifth Avenue. This final programme in the series finds Bernard Levin venturing into Harlem

7.00 News summary and weather followed by **Facing the Angels.** A documentary presented by Tom Conti, on the subject of angels.

8.00 Chris Bonington — The Everest Years. A portrait of Britain's best-known mountaineer (r)

9.00 4 Play: Shalom Joan Collins. Miriam, a dentist's assistant, leads a very quiet life, living with her widowed mother, until the day she arrives home with the news that she's met Joan Collins and invited her to tea the following day. With Julia Swift, Anna Massey, Cyril Shaps and Maxine Audley (r). (Oracle)

10.10 Christmas Present. Tony Robinson takes a look at Channel 4's Christmas line-up

10.30 Class of 69. This summer the most famous graduate of Evanston Township High School's class of 69, Ruby Wax, went back for the class reunion

11.30 Film: Hollywood Shuffle (1987) starring Anne-Marie Johnson, Robert Townsend and Helen Martin. Satirical comedy following the exploits of Bobby, a struggling black actor trying to make a name for himself in Hollywood.

1.05am The Session. Cowboy Jack Clement on stage at the Point Depot in Dublin where he performs a selection of country numbers with help from Don Everly and Jim Rooney. Ends at **2.00**

VARIATIONS

BBC2 WALES: 10.55am-12.10pm Carols For Christmas

ANGLIA As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 Round the World Yacht Race.

BORDER As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 Partridge Family 3.50-5.00 Kylie on the Go 2.30am Film: The Face of a Stranger (Kathleen Quinlan, Stephen Collins) 4.05-5.05 Chart Show.

CENTRAL As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 The Fashion Show.

CHANNEL As London except: 12.35am Film: Royal Flash (Malcolm McDowell, Alan Bates) 2.25 Comedy Store 3.25-5.05 Film: Red Alert (William Devane, Michael Brandon).

GRAMPIAN As London except: 1.40pm Film: Journey to the Centre of the Earth (Pat Boone, James Mason) 4.05-5.00 Coronation Street 2.20am Film: Face of a Stranger (Kathleen Quinlan, Stephen Collins) 4.05-5.05 Chart Show.

GRANADA As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 Partridge Family 3.50-5.00 Home to Roost 2.20am Film: Face of a Stranger (Kathleen Quinlan, Stephen Collins) 4.05-5.05 Chart Show.

HTV WEST As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 Batman.

HTV WALES As HTV West except: No variations.

TSW As London except: 12.20pm-1.00 The South West Week 2.20 Film: Face of a Stranger (Kathleen Quinlan, Stephen Collins) 4.05-5.05 Chart Show.

TVS As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 Whitbread Round the World Race 12.30am: Film: Royal Flash (Malcolm McDowell, Oliver Reed) 2.25 Comedy Store 3.25-5.05 Film: Red Alert (William Devane, Ralph Waite)

TYNE TEES As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 Partridge Family 3.50-5.00 Home to Roost 2.20 Film: Face of a Stranger (Kathleen Quinlan, Stephen Collins) 4.05-5.05 Chart Show.

ULSTER As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 Partridge Family 3.50 Sportsbeat 4.00-5.00 Home to Roost 2.20 Film: Face of a Stranger (Kathleen Quinlan, Stephen Collins) 4.05-5.05 Chart Show.

YORKSHIRE As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 Christmas Comes to Packand.

S4C Starts: 8.00am Early Morning 9.25 On the Twelfth Day 10.00 Country Ways 10.30 Hard News 11.00 Gardener's Guide 11.30 4 What it's worth 12.00 Pobol y Cwm 12.30pm The Heart Has its Reasons 1.15 Peggy Ashcroft 3.05 Film: Heaven Can Wait (Don Ameche) 5.05 Brookside 6.00 Right to Reply 6.30 The Wonder Years 7.00 Ar y Bocs 7.30 News 7.40 C'mon Midffild 8.15 Hosan Lawen 9.15 Noson I'w Chofio 10.15 4 Play 11.30 Film: Hollywood Shuffle (Anne-Marie, Starletta Supois) 1.05am The Session 2.00 Closedown.

RTE 1 Starts: 9.00am Scratch Saturday 1.00 Film: Wizard of Oz — animated version 2.20 Film: Marx Brothers at the Circus 3.45 Film: Weekend at the Waldorf (Ginger Rogers, Lana Turner) 6.00 Angelus 6.01 News 6.15 Mailbag 6.35 Piece of Cake 7.05 Mission Impossible 8.00 A Galway Christmas 9.00 News 9.15 Dallas 10.15 Film: Down and Out in Beverly Hills (Nick Nolte, Bette Midler) 12.05am News. Closedown.

NETWORK 2 Starts: 12.15pm News 12.20 Sports Stadium 2.30 Sgt Pepper: It was Twenty Years Ago Today 4.15 MTV Music Video Awards 5.55 Rapido 6.25 Leontyne 6.55 Nuacht 7.05 Christmas Show 8.00 Film: It's a Wonderful Life (James Stewart, Donna Reed) 10.15 Margaret Burke Sheridan Remembered 11.05 Film: The Big Knife (Peter Gallagher, Betsy Brantley) 1.10am Closedown.

In concert: Cliff Richard celebrates 30 years in show business (ITV, 7.15pm)

SATELLITE

SKY ONE

6.00am Countdown **7.00** Fun Factory **11.00** Countdown **12.00** Frank Bough's World **1.00pm** The Invisible Man **2.00** All-American Wrestling **3.00** The Bionic Woman **4.00** UK Top 50 **5.00** Dolly **6.00** Film: Scrooge **8.00** Sky Star Search Christmas **9.00** Hollywood's Private Home Movies **10.00** WWF Superstars of Wrestling '89 **11.00** Sky World News Tonight **11.30** UK Top 50

SKY NEWS

News on the hour.
5.00am Sky News **5.30** Beyond 2000 **6.30** The Unesco Report **7.30** Beyond 2000 **8.30** Earthfile **9.30** Wild West End **10.30** The Unesco Report **11.30** Our World **12.30pm** Beyond 2000 **1.30** Motor Sports News **2.30** Wild West End **3.30** Earthfile **4.30** Our World **5.30** Wild West End **6.30** Beyond 2000 **7.30** The Reporters **8.30** The Best of the FBI **9.30** The Best of Target **9.50** Greyhound Racing — Live **10.30** The Reporters **11.30** Motor Sports News **12.30am** Wild West End **1.30** Target **2.30** The Best of the FBI **3.30** The Reporters **4.30** Motor Sports News

SKY MOVIES

From **8.00am The Satellite Shop**
2.00pm Daniel of the Towers: Friendship between a Hispanic boy and an Italian immigrant
3.00 Bridge to Teribethia: Youth drama
4.00 Roses Are for the Rich (1987): Autumn (Lisa Hartman) seeks revenge for her husband's death
7.40 Entertainment Tonight
8.00 Little Shop of Horrors (1986): Musical fantasy about a man-eating plant
10.00 Car Trouble (1985): A new car comes between a wife (Julie Walters) and her husband (Ian Charleson)
11.45 Breathless (1983): Richard Gere plays an anti-hero dodging police and romancing a French student (Valerie Kaprisky)
1.30am The Hitchhiker: Tonight's episode is *Face to Face*
2.00 The Omega Syndrome (1987): A Vietnam veteran (Ken Wahl) takes on neo-Nazis who kidnapped his daughter (Nicole Eggert)
4.00 Secret Admirer (1985): An anonymous love letter sets off a comic chain of romantic reactions. Ends at **5.35am**

EUROSPORT

6.00am Countdown **7.00** Fun Factory **9.00** Eurosport Menu **9.30** Athletics: Women's 15km Road Race **10.00** Ford Ski Report **11.00** FIFA World Youth Soccer **12.30pm** Tennis Legends **1.00** Figure Skating: NHK Trophy **2.00** Australian Rules Football — The Grand Final: Hawthorne v Geelong **4.00** Football **6.00** Trans World Sport **7.00** Rugby Union: England "B" v USSR **8.00** Best of the Year: Basketball **9.00** European Football "Cup Glory" **11.00** Paris-Dakar Rally Preview **12.00** Boxing Superbouts: Cruz v McGuigan

SCREENSPORT

1.30am US College Football **3.30** Rugby League **5.00** US College Basketball **6.30** Motorcrss **7.00** NFL Game of the Week **9.00** Karate **10.00** Golf **12.00** US College Basketball **1.30pm** English Rugby League **3.00** NFL Highlights **4.00** Ice Hockey **6.00** Sport en France **6.30** Powersports International **7.30** Ice Skating **9.00** US College Football **11.00** US Professional Boxing **12.30am** Motorsport

● Full information on satellite TV programmes is available in the weekly magazine, TV Guide.

RADIO 1

FM Stereo and **MW**
News on the half-hour from **5.30am** until **12.30pm**, then at **2.00, 3.30, 5.30, 7.30, 9.30**
5.00am Tim Smith **7.00** Bruno Brookes Breakfast Show with Liz Kershaw **10.00** Dave Lee Travis **1.00pm** Adrian Juste **2.00** Phil Collins — But Seriously: a special interview by Mike Read **3.00** The Saturday Sequence with Richard Skinner: celebrates the life and work of Roger Scott **7.00** Robbie Vincent's Crème de la Crème of 1989: the best soul records of the year **9.00** Andy Peebles Soul Trail **11.00-2.00am** The Saturday Rock Show with Alan Freeman

RADIO 2

FM Stereo
News on the hour until **1.00pm**, then at **3.00, 6.00, 7.00** and hourly from **10.00pm**
Headlines **6.30am, 7.30**
4.00am Dave Bussey **6.00** Graham Knight **8.05** David Jacobs **9.00** Sounds of the Sixties with Jimmy Tarbuck **10.00** Anna Raeburn **12.00** Gerald Harper **1.00pm** Hofmann **2.00-7.00** (No FM service) **7.00** Beat the Record with Keith Fordyce **7.30** Saturday Night Gala presents Brentwood Pops 1989, with the BBC Concert Orchestra under Stanley Black **9.30** String Sound with the BBC Radio Orchestra **10.05** Martin Kelner **12.05am** Night Owls **1.00** Colin Berry presents Nightride **3.00-4.00** A Little Night Music
MW as above except: **1.00pm** Sport on 2 **5.00** Sports Report Special **6.00** Cinema 2 **6.30-7.00** Christmas Jukebox Saturday Night

RADIO 3

6.55am News and Weather
7.00 Morning Concert: Haydn (Overture, Il mondo della luna: Concentus Musicus, Vienna under Harnoncourt); Ravel (Concerto for the left hand: Montreal SO under Charles Dutoit, with Pascal Roge, piano)
7.30 News
7.35 Morning Concert (cont): Mussorgsky (The Triumphal March "The Capture of Kars": LSO under Claudio Abbado); Rimsky-Korsakov (A Hymn to Nature "The Invisible City of Kitezh": SNO under Neeme Järvi); Lyadov (The Musical Box: Mexican State PO under Enrique Batiz); Myaskovsky (Violin Concerto: USSR RSO under Alexander Dmitriev, with Grigori Feigin, violin)
8.30 News
8.35 BBC Philharmonic Orchestra under Edward Downes, with Michael Collins, clarinet, performs Rossini (Overture, William Tell); Finzi (Clarinet Concerto); Dvořák (Scherzo capriccioso)
9.30 Saturday Review: Record Release. Haydn (Sonata in F, H XVI 23: Emanuel Ax, piano); Byrd (O magnum misterium: Cambridge Singers under John Rutter); Lalo (Symphonie espagnole: Montreal SO under Dutoit, with Joshua Bell, piano); trad (Il est né, le divin Enfant); anon (Noval Noval: Tavener Choir, Consort and Players under Andrew Parrott); Tchaikovsky (The Nutcracker, Act 1: Orchestra of the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden under Mark Ermler)
11.25 City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra under Simon Rattle; Man's Voices of CBSO Chorus, with Heinz Holliger, oboe, Patrick Power, tenor, perform Strauss (Oboe Concerto); Liszt (A Faust Symphony)
1.00pm News
1.05 Bach (new series): The pianist Andras Schiff plays the six English Suites, and the two- and three-part inventions. English Suites — No 1 in A, BWV 806; No 3 in G minor, BWV 808. The first of four programmes
1.50 Members of the Vienna Octet perform Beethoven (Sextet in E flat, Op 81b
2.15 Virtuoso Duos: David Campbell, clarinet, Andrew Ball, piano, perform Burgmüller (Duo, Op 15); Milhaud (Duo concertante, Op 351); Weber (Grand duo concertant, Op 48)
3.00 From the Festivals 1989: Aldeburgh Festival. Choristers of Westminster Cathedral under James O'Donnell perform Bizet (Jeux d'enfants for piano duet, Op 22); Britten (Friday Afternoon, for children's voices and piano, Op 7; Gemini Variations for flute, violin and piano duet, Op 73); Schubert (Psalm 23 "Gott is mein Hirt", D 706); Britten (Missa brevis, for boys' voices and organ, Op 63)
4.25 Début: The pianist Alma Petchersky performs Tchaikovsky (Sonata in G, Op 37)
5.00 Jazz Record Requests with Peter Clayton
5.45 Critics' Forum: A weekly discussion on the arts, with chairman Jill Neville, Anthony Curtis, Peter Porter and Bryan Robertson
6.35 Symphonic Winds: The City of London Wind Ensemble under Geoffrey Brand, with Christian Lindberg, trombone, performs Ireland, arr Steadman-Allen (Comedy Overture); Derek Bourgeois (Trombone Concerto — first broadcast); Holst, arr Denis Wright (A Moorside Suite)
7.30 Vakula the Smith: The BBC Philharmonic Orchestra under Edward Downes; Chorus of Opera North under Clive Timms perform a new studio production in Russian of Tchaikovsky's three-act opera. Based on the Christmas Eve story by Gogol, from which Patrick Garland has written narrations, which are read by Patricia Routledge. First UK performance
10.00 Studio 3: St Winefred's Well, by Gerard Manley Hopkins (1844-89). A verse drama left in a fragmentary state and completed by Anthony Burgess, who also composed the music. Set in AD 660. When Winefred (Elizabeth Mansfield), a virgin, refused Caradoc (Ioan Meredith), a Welsh chieftain, he decapitated her. She was restored to life by her uncle St Beuno (Edward Petherbridge), at which time a well appeared, which has been a source of pilgrimage ever since
10.40 Bach: Fifteen two-part Inventions, BWV 772-86; English Suite No 5 in E minor, BWV 810
11.30 Arvo Pärt: Western Wind under Paul Hillier performs Pärt's setting of the seven Advent 'O' antiphons
12.10am News **12.15** Close

RADIO 4

LW (s) Stereo on **FM**
5.55am Shipping Forecast **6.00** News Briefing: Weather **6.10** The Farming Week: Sue Broom roots out an organic Christmas lunch **6.50** Prayer for the Day **6.55** Weather **7.00** Today, incl **7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30** News **7.55, 8.58** Weather
9.00 News
9.05 Sport on 4: Cliff Morgan reports on one of the busiest periods of the sporting calendar — the festive season
9.30 Breakaway: Holiday and travel news, presented by Bernard Falk. Cindy Selby visits the Arctic Circle in the company of reindeer and polar bear and Simon Parkes takes a luxurious short break in the elegant city of Venice
10.00 News: Loose Ends: Ned Sherrin, with guests Robert Elms, Victoria Mather and John Walters (s)
11.00 News; The Year in Westminster: Review of the political year by Robin Oakley of *The Times*, Peter Jenkins of *The Independent*, Michael White of *The Guardian* and Andrew Marr of *The Economist*
11.30 Europhile: News and events affecting people around Europe presented from Paris by Philippe Chatenay and Josef Joffe. Last in the series
12.00 Money Box: Louise Botting and Vincent Duggleby consider the effects of economic changes over the last 10 years
12.25pm News Quiz of the Year: Hosted by Barry Took, with Richard Ingrams and Alan Coren. The guests are John Wells and Kate Adie (s)
12.55 Weather
1.00 News
1.10 Any Questions? Jonathan Dimbleby in Frome, Somerset, with panellists Tony Benn, MP, Michael Heseltine, MP, Enoch Powell and writer Fay Weldon (r)
2.00 News: Any Answers? 01-580 4411. Jonathan Dimbleby takes listeners' calls on topics raised in this week's *Any Questions?*
2.30 Fairy Story: Play by Don Haworth (s) (r)
3.45 Straw and Steel: Suffolk life in peace and war is remembered by John Death Sam Humphrey, Busky Laurie, Eric Schranz and Ken Smith (s)
4.30 Science Now: Universal Challenge. Scientific quiz in which the presenters and the academics take opposite sides (s)
5.00 Conversation Piece: Sue MacGregor talks to actor, writer and artist Antony Sher (r)
5.25 Week Ending: Satirical review of the week's news. With Bill Wallis, David Tate and Sally Grace (s) (r) **5.50** Shipping Forecast **5.55** Weather
6.00 News: Sports round-up
6.25 Citizens omnibus edition (s)
7.10 Stop the Week (s)
7.45 A Tale of Two Cities: Seven-part dramatization by Nick McCarty of the novel by Charles Dickens. Part 1: Beginnings. With Charles Dance as Sydney Carton, John Duttine as Charles Darnay, Richard Pasco as Mr Lorry and Maurice Denham as Dr Manette (s) (r)
8.45 Concerto: Pianist Peter Donohoe talks to June Knox-Mawer about his career and introduces some of his recordings (s)
9.50 Ten to Ten: Led by Rev Donald English **9.59** Weather
10.00 News
10.15 Uncle Christmas: Barry Paine introduces a selection of folk stories gathered by David Heitch from the five continents, using animal metaphors to explain life's mysteries. Read by Rosalie Crutchley, Garard Green and Andrew Sachs
11.00 Funny That Way: Barry Cryer introduces eight comedy profiles. Part 1: Laurel and Hardy
11.30 Beachcomber . . . By The Way: Starring Richard Ingrams as Beachcomber, John Wells as Prodnose, and Patricia Routledge and John Sessions as a host of other characters, in a recreation of the world of J.B. Morton (s) (r)
12.00-12.30am News, incl **12.20** Weather **12.33** Shipping Forecast
FM as **LW** except:
1.55-2.00pm Programme News **5.50-5.55** Programme News

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1: 1053kHz/285m;1089kHz/275m;FM-97.6-99.8. (London area FM-104.8.) **Radio 2:** 693kHz/433m;909kHz/330m;FM-88-90.2. **Radio 3:** 1215kHz/ 247m; FM-90-92.4. **Radio 4:** 198kHz/1515m;FM-92.4-94.6. **LBC:** 1152kHz/261m; FM 97.3. **Capital:** 1548kHz/194m; FM 95.8. **Greater London Radio:** 1458kHz/206m; FM 94.9; **World Service:** MW 648kHz/463m.

WORLD SERVICE

5.00am German Features **5.35** News in German; Headlines in English and French **5.47** Sports News **5.50** Financial News **5.55** Weather and Travel News **6.00** Newsdesk **6.30** Londres Matin **7.00** News **7.09** 24 Hours; News Summary **7.30** From the Weeklies **7.45** Network UK **8.00** News **8.09** Words of Faith **8.15** A Jolly Good Show **9.00** World News **9.09** Review of the British Press **9.15** The World Today **9.30** Financial News; Sports Roundup **9.45** Worldbrief **10.01** Here's Humph! **10.15** Letter From America **10.30** People and Politics **11.00** News **11.09** News about Britain **11.15** Fat Susan and the Christmas Turkey **11.30** Londres Midi **12.00** Newsreel **12.15pm** Multitrack 3 **12.45** Sports Roundup **1.00** News **1.09** 24 Hours; News Summary **1.30** Network UK **1.45** Short Story: The Shadow and the Gypsy **2.01** The Ken Bruce Show **2.30** Sports Review of 1989 **3.00** Newsreel **3.15** Death, Fire and Life **4.00** News **4.09** News about Britain **4.15** BBC English **4.30** Nachrichten **4.40** German features **5.01** Gluttony: Food, Glorious Food **5.30** Londres Soir **5.15** BBC English **6.30** Heute Aktuell **7.00** German features **7.54** Nachrichten **8.00** News **8.09** From Our Own Correspondent **8.25** Words of Faith **8.30** Meridian **9.01** Sports Roundup **9.15** Fat Susan and the Christmas Turkey **9.30** Women on the Move **10.00** Newshour **11.00** News **11.05** Words of Faith **11.15** A Jolly Good Show **12.00** Newsdesk **12.30am** Christmas Music **1.00** Play of the Week: Crisp and Even Brightly **2.00** News **2.09** Review of the British Press **2.15** Viva Garibaldi **2.30** The Ken Bruce Show **3.00** World News **3.09** News about Britain **3.15** From Our Own Correspondent **3.30** Quote, Unquote **4.00** Newsdesk **4.30** Personal View **4.45** Nachrichten und Pressaschau

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TELEVISION & RADIO Christmas Eve

SATELLITE

SKY ONE

6.00am The Hour of Power **7.00** Fun Factory **11.00** UK Top 50 **12.00** Beyond 2000 **1.00pm** That's Incredible **2.00** WWF Superstars of Wrestling '89 **3.00** The Incredible Hulk **4.00** Emergency **5.00** Christmas at St Albans **6.30** Family Ties **7.00** Film: The Sound of Music **10.00** Entertainment This Week **11.00** Midnight Mass from the Vatican

SKY NEWS

News on the hour.
5.00am Sky News **5.30** Fashion TV **6.30** The Best of the Frank Bough Interview **7.30** Roving Report **8.30** Those Were the Days **9.30** The Wall Street Journal **10.30** Fashion TV **11.30** Our World **12.30pm** The Editors **1.30** Those Were the Days **2.30** The Wall Street Journal **3.30** Entertainment This Week **4.30** Our World **5.30** Fashion TV **6.30** Entertainment This Week **7.30** Those Were the Days **8.30** The Editors **9.30** Meet the Press **10.30** Roving Report **11.30** Entertainment This Week **12.30am** The Editors **1.30** Entertainment This Week **2.30** Meet the Press **3.30** Entertainment This Week **4.30** Roving Report

SKY MOVIES

From **8.00am The Satellite Shop**
2.00pm A Passage to India (1984): Starring Judy Davis and Victor Banerjee
5.00 'Twas the Night before Christmas: Santa refuses to work on Christmas Eve
6.00 The Princess Bride (1987): Fantasy about a damsel in distress
7.40 Projector: David Castell reviews forthcoming movies on Sky
8.00 The Color Purple (1985): Whoopi Goldberg as a victimized black woman
10.30 The Morning After (1986): Starring Jane Fonda and Jeff Bridges
12.15am Outrageous Fortune (1987): Bette Midler and Shelley Long discover they've been cheated by the same man (Peter Coyote)
2.00 The Hitchhiker: Tonight's episode is *Split Decision*
2.30 Monty Python Live at the Hollywood Bowl (1982): American stage version of the classic Python sketches
4.00 Command in Hell: A female police captain is assigned to a corrupt inner-city squad. Ends at **5.25am**

EUROSPORT

6.00am The Hour of Power **7.00** Fun Factory **9.00** Menu **9.30** Tennis Legends **10.00** FIFA World Youth Soccer **12.00** Surfing Special **1.00pm** Figure Skating **2.00** Showjumping **3.00** Rugby League **4.00** Commonwealth Cycling Classic **5.00pm** Paris-Dakar Rally Preview **6.00** Figure Skating **7.00** 1989 Rodeo Showdown and Western Festival **8.00** Golf **9.00** Film: Maradona – The Greatest Player in the World? **10.00** Conquer The Arctic **11.00** Sailing **12.00** Paris-Dakar Rally

MTV

6.00am Ray Cokes **10.30** The Big Picture **11.00** European Top 20 **12.30pm** REM Rockumentary **1.00** Marcel Vanthilt **5.00** MTV Classics **6.00** Kristiane Backer **8.30** No Nukes Concert **10.30** Week in Rock **11.00** XPO **12.00** Videos

SCREENSPORT

1.15am Spanish Soccer **3.00** US College Basketball **4.30** Golf **6.30** Sport en France **7.00** NFL '89 Highlights **8.00** Golf **10.00** NFL Game of the Week **12.00** Spanish Soccer **1.45pm** Motorsport **2.30** Sport en France **3.00** US College Basketball **4.30** Ice Skating **6.00** Ice Hockey **8.00** US College Basketball **9.30** US College Football **11.30** Boxing

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BBC 1

8.35 The Day I Met the Queen. Ordinary people talk about the memorable day they met their monarch (r). (Ceefax)
9.15 Pilgrimage to Christmas. Advent worship from the monastic community of Stanbrook Abbey
10.00 The Driving Force Snow Special. Coverage of the annual pro-celebrity driving competition from the French Alps for the Shell Trophy
11.00 Film: The Return of the Pink Panther (1974) starring Peter Sellers, Christopher Plummer, Catherine Schell and Herbert Lom. Mishaps and mayhem when Inspector Clouseau arrives on the scene to recover the national treasure of a foreign state, the pink panther diamond. But in his efforts to track down the infamous Phantom, someone sends him on a wild goose chase around Europe. Directed by Blake Edwards. (Ceefax) (see Films panel) **12.50 Cartoon.** *Three Little Pups*
1.00 News summary with Chris Lowe. Weather
1.05 Joy to the World. A galaxy of international stars from television, film, theatre and opera gather at the Royal Albert Hall, in the presence of the Queen and the Princess Royal, to celebrate 70 years of the Save the Children Fund. Among the stars taking part in this festive gala with massed choirs, orchestra and military bands are Edward Woodward, Mollie Sugden, Cliff Richard, Stratford Johns, George Segal and Nicola Pagett. Sarah Greene is the presenter
2.00 EastEnders. The Beales and Fowlers are in for a few surprises. (Ceefax)
3.00 Film: Labyrinth (1986) starring David Bowie and Jennifer Connelly. Fantasy adventure about a young girl who is given 13 hours to solve the puzzle of the Labyrinth in order to save her kidnapped younger brother from being turned into a goblin. Directed by Jim Henson. (Ceefax)
4.35 Beasts of the Field. Why farm *animals still retain certain instinctive* behaviours from their wild past after thousands of years of domestication. (Ceefax)
5.05 Hearts of Gold introduced by Esther Rantzen and Michael Groth. (Ceefax)
5.50 The Chronicles of Narnia. In this concluding episode, with the voyage nearing its end, the youngsters face their greatest adventure with King Caspian. (Ceefax)
6.20 News with Chris Lowe. Weather
6.35 Songs of Praise. This year's Christmas celebration comes from the 11th-century Warwick Castle. (Ceefax)
7.15 Telly Addicts. In a festive celebrity episode of the quiz
7.45 Ever Decreasing Circles. Martin's help in the preparations for the summer fete is interupted by some good news and bad news: he gets offered a pay rise and a promotion, but it means having to leave the neighbourhood. With Richard Briers, Penelope Wilton and Peter Egan. (Ceefax)
9.10 News with Martyn Lewis. Weather
9.25 Film: Legal Eagles (1986) starring Robert Redford, Debra Winger and Daryl Hannah. Directed by Ivan Reitman. (Ceefax) (see Films panel)
11.20 Midnight Mass of the Nativity. This year's midnight mass comes from the Church of the Most Holy Redeemer, Clonard Monastery in West Belfast
12.20am Film: Love Story (1970) starring Ali MacGraw and Ryan O'Neal. A pair of young lovers find their romantic world brought to an abrupt halt by tragic illness. Directed by Arthur Hiller. (Ceefax) (see Films panel)
2.00 Weather

ITV/LONDON

6.00 TV-am begins with two nature films; **7.00 It's Stardust.** Alvin Stardust introduces a programme for children
8.00 News followed by **David Frost on Sunday.** With Esther Rantzen, Jonathan Ross, Tim Rice, Simon Hoggart and Cardinal Hume. Plus a report on Berlin at Christmas. Includes news at **9.00**
9.25 The Disney Club. Gordon Inglis pays a flying visit to Disney World and John Eccleston meets a brilliant young cartoonist. Meanwhile, Andrea Boardman chats to pop heart-throb Jason Donovan
11.00 Meditation. The last of four Advent meditations from the Parish Church of St Mary's, Nether Alderley, Cheshire
12.00 Encounter. A portrait of 61-year-old Father John Fagan, founder of the New York-based Little Flower Children's Service that finds foster parents for abandoned Aids-infected babies
12.30 Time for Christmas. A look at some of the people in the LWT area who are devoting their time to helping others at Christmas
1.00 News with Fiona Armstrong. Weather **1.05 LWT News** and weather
1.15 Kylie — on the Go. A behind-the-scenes look at pop star Kylie Minogue as she tours Japan and England
2.10 Film: A Christmas Carol (1984) starring George C. Scott, Frank Finlay and Edward Woodward. Dickens's tale of the miserly and ruthless Ebenezer Scrooge who is visited by the ghost of his former partner who aims to make him change his skinflint ways. Directed by Clive Donner. (see Film panel)
4.05 Christmas Sunday Sunday. Gloria Hunniford's guests are Cliff Richard, Jason Donovan and Joanna Lumley
5.00 Bullseye Christmas Special
5.45 Time for Christmas. The launch of Christmas Line, the telephone information service which will be open throughout the holiday period
6.00 News with Fiona Armstrong. Weather **6.10 LWT News,** weather
6.15 Highway. *Sir Harry Secombe is in* Durham Cathedral where he and the choir are joined by Jessye Norman, Thomas Allen the Dean of Durham, Rev John R Arnold and actors Robert Hardy and Patricia Brake
7.15 Film: Pied Piper (1989) starring Peter O'Toole and Mare Winningham (see Choice)
9.15 News with Sue Carpenter. Weather **9.25 LWT Weather**
9.30 The Woman in Black. (Oracle) (see Choice)
11.30 A Service for Christmas Eve from the Dryfesdale Parish Church in Lockerbie
12.30am Rich Little's Christmas Carol. Rich Little in his own adaptation of Dickens's *A Christmas Carol*, playing 14 roles
1.30 The Comedy Store. Some of the country's best alternative comedians seen in performance at London's Comedy Store, including Hattie Hayridge, Simon Fanshaw and Steve Coogan
1.40 Film: Why Me? (1984) starring Glynnis O'Connor, Armand Assante and Annie Potts. Powerful drama about an air force nurse who is involved in a horrific car crash, which not only leaves her physically scarred but also has a traumatic effect on her marriage. Directed by Fielder Cook (see Film panel)
3.20 Film: Burning Rage (1984). Starring Barbara Mandrell, Eddie Albert, Carol Kane and Bert Remsen. Mystery thriller about a trouble-shooting geologist sent to help out a mining village when the mines begin burning out of control. Directed by Gil Cates (see Film panel)
5.10 ITN Morning News. Ends at **5.15**

BBC 2

7.30 Playbus (r) **7.50 Barney** (r) **7.55 Is That a Fact?** (r) **8.10 Santa's Pocket Watch 8.35 Umbrella Christmas Special 8.50 Follow That Sleigh 9.15 Corners** (r) **9.30 Visionaries**
9.55 Blue Peter Omnibus (r) **10.45 Maid Marian and Her Merry Men** (r) **11.10 Boxpops 11.50 The O Zone 12.10 Animation Now**
12.15 Film: Bush Christmas (1982) starring Nicole Kidman and Mark Spain. Adventure story about a group of teenagers looking for horse thieves. Directed by Henri Safran.
1.40 One in Four. Magazine for the disabled
2.10 Concert Trilogy. Three popular orchestral works by the Radio Symphony Orchestra of Basle,
3.00 A Rose for Winter. The second part of Laurie Lee's autobiographical account of his return journey to Spain with his bride Cathy in 1951
4.00 Tales from Hoffnung
4.15 Fred Astaire. The first of two biographical documentaries
5.05 It's Garry Shandling's Christmas Show
5.30 The Spirit of Christmas. A live celebration, linking cities all around Britain
6.30 Riding the Dog. On an American Greyhound bus for the 53-hour trip from Seattle to Chicago
7.20 Vespers in Venice. See Radio 3 from **7.40**
9.10 Relatively Speaking. (Ceefax) (see Choice)
11.00 Viva Leone! A documentary tribute to the Italian film director Sergio Leone
11.40 Film: Once upon a Time in the West (1969) starring Henry Fonda and directed by Sergio Leone. (Ceefax) (see Film panel). Ends at **2.25am**

CHANNEL 4

6.00 Hallelujah (r) **6.30 Flight over Spain.** Murcia from the air **7.00 Australian Beautiful Gardens.** Erydene (r) **7.30 Box Office Weekly.**
8.00 David the Gnome 8.30 Christmas Box 9.00 Dennis
9.25 Follow That Star. A profile of Amitabh Bachchan **10.25 Starlight Serenaders.** Animation
10.35 The Batman (b/w). Episode two **10.55 Christmas Fairytale**
11.05 Film: Road to Utopia (1945 b/w) (see Film panel) **12.45 Air Pirates of the Outback 12.55 The Wall**
1.00 Fish People. The place that fish have in the lives of the people who keep them
2.00 Anne of Green Gables (r) (Oracle)
3.50 Star of Bethlehem. A silhouette film with musical accompaniment by the Glyndebourne Festival Choir
4.10 Cinderella. The Lyon Opera Ballet performs Maguy Marin's production of the classic fairy tale **5.55 News** summary and weather
6.00 American Football. Cleveland Browns at the Houston Oilers
7.00 Desert Orchid: Living with a Legend. A portrait of the flying grey steeplechaser. (Oracle)
8.00 To Hell with the Devil. A documentary about a Los Angeles heavy metal band, Stryper, who became Christians in 1983
9.00 One Hour with Jonathan Ross and Rosanna Arquette, David Byrne and Paul Gascoine
10.00 American Football. Los Angeles Raiders at the New York Giants
11.30 Film: Julia (1977) starring Jane Fonda and Vanessa Redgrave. Directed by Fred Zinnemann (see Film panel)
1.40am Film: Monkey Business (1931 b/w), starring the Marx Brothers. Directed by Norman Z. McLeod (see Film panel) Ends at **3.05**

VARIATIONS

BBC1 WALES: **6.35pm-7.15** Carols For Christmas **2.00am-2.05** News and weather SCOTLAND: **4.35pm** Tom and Jerry Cartoon **4.40-5.05** A Clydeside Carol **11.20-12.20am** Watchnight Service

ANGLIA As London except: **12.30pm-1.00** Silent Night with Jose Carreras **1.15** Cartoon **1.30** Kylie on the Go **2.25** Film: A Christmas Carol (Frank Finlay, George C. Scott) **4.15** Highway to Heaven **5.15-6.00** Bullseye **12.30am** Christmas Records **1.30-3.20** Film: Flood! (Robert Culp, Martin Milner)

BORDER As London except: **12.30pm-1.00** ALF **1.10** Reluctant Dragon **1.35** Film: A Christmas Carol (Frank Finlay, George C. Scott) **3.20** Highway to Heaven **4.15** Bullseye **5.00-6.00** Coronation Street **1.30am-3.20** Film: Flood! (Robert Culp, Martin Milner)

CENTRAL As London except: **12.30pm** Christmas Message **12.35-1.00** Silent Night with Jose Carreras **1.15** Cartoon **1.30** Kylie on the Go **2.25** Film: A Christmas Carol (Frank Finlay, George C. Scott) **4.15** Highway to Heaven **5.15-6.00** Bullseye **1.30-3.20** Film: Flood! (Robert Culp, Martin Milner)

CHANNEL As London except: **12.30pm-1.00** Dusty the Snowman **1.15** Winchester Cathedral Carols **1.50** Christmas Comes to Pacland **2.20** Film: A Christmas Carol (Frank Finlay, George C. Scott) **4.15** Kylie on the Go **5.15-6.00** Bullseye **12.30am** Film: Charade (Cary Grant, Audrey Hepburn) **2.35** Rich Little's Christmas Carol **3.35-5.05** Film: Watch It! Sailor (Dennis Price, Liz Fraser)

GRAMPIAN As London except: **11.00am** Robostory **11.30-12.00** Jerusalem of Heaven and Earth **12.30pm-1.00** Christmas Comes to Pacland **1.15** Cartoon **1.30** Kylie on the Go **2.25** Film: A Christmas Carol (Frank Finlay, George C. Scott) **4.15** Bullseye **5.00-6.00** Fall Guy **1.30am-3.20** Film: Flood! (Robert Culp, Martin Milner)

GRANADA As London except: **12.30pm** This is Your Right **12.50-1.00** Aap Kaa Hak **1.10** Reluctant Dragon **1.35** Film: A Christmas Carol (Frank Finlay, George C. Scott) **3.20** Highway to Heaven **4.15** Bullseye **5.00-6.00** Coronation Street **1.30am-3.20** Film: Flood! (Robert Culp, Martin Milner)

HTV WEST As London except: **12.30pm-1.00** Christmas Comes to Pacland **1.15** Cartoon **1.30** Kylie **2.25** Film: A Christmas Carol (FRank Finlay, George C. Scott) **4.15** Fall Guy **5.15-6.00** Bullseye **1.30am-3.20** Film: Flood! (Robert Culp, Martin Milner)

HTV WALES As HTV West except: **4.15-4.45pm** Day Return **4.45-5.15** Where Did That Money Go?

TSW As London except: **12.30pm-1.00** Christmas Comes to Pacland **1.15** Mother Goose **1.30** Kylie on the Go **2.25** Film: A Christmas Carol (Frank Finlay, George C. Scott) **4.15** Mother Goose **4.27** Peter and the Wolf **4.45** TSW Documentary **5.15-6.00** Bullseye **1.30am-3.20** Film: Flood! (Robert Culp, Martin Milner)

TVS As London except: **12.30pm-1.00** Dusty the Snowman **1.15** Winchester Cathedral Carols **2.05** Christmas Comes to Pacland **2.35** Film: A Christmas Carol (Frank Finlay, George C. Scott) **4.20** Kylie on the Go **5.15-6.00** Bullseye **12.30am** Film: Charade (Cary Grant, Audrey Hepburn) **2.35** Rich Little's Christmas Carol **3.35-5.05** Film: Watch It, Sailor! (Dennis Price, Liz Fraser)

TYNE TEES As London except: **12.30pm-1.00** Flavour of the Month **1.10** Mickey Mouse **1.35** Film: A Christmas Carol (FRank Finlay, George C. Scott) **3.20** Highway to Heaven **4.15** Bullseye **5.00-6.00** Coronation Street **1.30am-3.20** Film: Flood! (Robert Culp, Martin Milner)

ULSTER As London except: **12.30pm-1.00** Christmas Comes to Pacland **1.15** A Galway Christmas **2.15** Cartoon **2.25** Film: A Christmas Carol (Frank Finlay, George C. Scott) **4.15** Bullseye **5.00-6.00** Coronation Street **1.30am-3.20** Film: Flood! (Robert Culp, Martin Milner)

YORKSHIRE As London except: **12.30pm** Persistence of Angels **12.45-1.00** Cartoon **1.15** Mickey Mouse **1.30** Kylie on the Go **2.25** Film: A Christmas Carol (FRank Finlay, George C. Scott) **4.15** Highway to Heaven **5.15-6.00** Bullseye **1.30am-3.20** Film: Flood! (Robert Culp, Martin Milner)

S4C Starts: **6.00am** Early Morning **9.00** Helping Henry **9.15** Hafoc **10.00** 1992 And All That **11.00** Anne of Green Gables **1.00pm** Chris Bonington **2.00** Anne of Green Gables **3.50** Christopher's Christmas Mission **4.20** Pump Dwrnod O Ryddid **6.05** Tedwng Yw'r Oen **6.45** O Bedwar Ban **7.00** Sam Tan **7.25** News **7.30** Enan **8.20** Nadolig Gwyn Yn Awstria **8.50** Dechrau Canu, Dechrau Canmol **9.20** Y Pwdin 'Dolig **10.10** Gwylnos O Ddyfed **10.45** Charlie Chaplin' **11.10** Silhouette Art **11.30** Film: Julia (Jane Fonda, Vanessa Redgrave) **1.40am** Film: Monkey Business' (Marx Brothers) **3.05** Closedown.

RTE 1 Starts: **10.00am** Service **10.45** Any Friend of Nicholas Nickleby **11.40** Magic Planet **12.30pm** Film: Anchors Aweigh (Gene Kelly, Frank Sinatra) **2.45** Film: Man In The Santa Claus Suit (Fred Astaire, Gary Burghof) **4.25** Carols for Christmas **5.45** News **6.00** Angelus **6.01** Iris Na Nollag **6.35** Film: What The Dickens? (Ben Cross, Kenneth Cranham) **8.00** Where in the World **8.30** Glenroe **9.00** News **9.10** Songs at Christmas **10.15** A Christmas Carol **11.20** Midnight Mass **12.20am** News, Closedown.

NETWORK 2 Starts: **9.55am** Pippi Longstocking **11.30** Beat Box **1.30pm** Sesame Street **2.55** Fabulous Fleischer Folio **3.10** Festival **5.00** Tex Avery Special **5.55** Piano Plus **6.25** Night Before Christmas in Dempsey's Den **6.55** Nuacht **7.00** The Most Joyful Mystery **7.30** Fair City **8.00** Margaret Burke Sheridan Remembered **9.00** Film: Name of the Rose (Sean Connery, Christian Slater) **11.10** Christmas with Flicka **12.10am** Closedown.

CHOICE

Television

● **Pied Piper** (ITV, 7.15pm) is an attractive and warm-hearted revamp of an old Nevil Shute story about a retired Englishman (Peter O'Toole) reluctantly taking a group of children out of occupied France in 1940. The reluctance stems from a weak heart and because he is not too keen on children anyway. Hazards on the way to the Channel coast include German bombers, unreliable transport and the Gestapo.

● Alan Ayckbourn's first West End hit **Relatively Speaking** (BBC2, 9.10pm) will delight those who have found the writer's comedy of late rather too black for their liking. Here the laughter is undarkened as two young lovers (Imogen Stubbs and Michael Maloney) and a married couple (Nigel Hawthorne and Gwen Watford) become embroiled in an intricate web of comic misunderstandings. The play is directed by a seasoned television Ayckbourn hand, Michael Simpson.

Adrian Rawlins: as the young solicitor sent to wind up an estate (ITV, 9.30pm)

● **The Woman in Black** (ITV, 9.30pm) is a handsomely mounted ghost story for Christmas from television veteran Nigel (*Quatermass*) Kneale by way of Susan Hill's book. Adrian Rawlins plays the young solicitor who is sent to a small coastal town to wind up an estate and probably wishes he had stayed put. With Pauline Moran as the woman of the title and Bernard Hepton in reliable support.

Radio

● If you prefer your Christmas sacred, not secular, you cannot do better than **A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols** (Radio 4, 3.00pm). Transmute it into gold, and Fort Knox could not contain it. I was lucky enough to hear a recording of **Marc-Antoine Charpentier's Messe de Minuit** (Radio 3, 12.05am), a 300-year-old amalgam of the Mass, French carols and plain chant. A glorious experience.

● And Christmas secular? **The Beasts of Ambridge** (Radio 4, 2.30pm) turns the Borsetshire folk into their own animals. Definitely not for non-Archer fans.

● Start counting the hit songs in **Sing Something Simple** (Radio 2, 3.00pm), four times its normal length to celebrate its thirtieth birthday, and you'll need a computer.

The great TV film show

CHRISTMAS EVE

The Return of the Pink Panther (BBC1, 11.00am-12.50pm) First of the second wave of Inspector Clouseau movies (eleven years after *A Shot in the Dark*). An uneven brew; the opening credits (Richard Williams) are superb. Peter Sellers bumbles exquisitely, but where's the finale? (1975)

Labyrinth (BBC1, 3.00-4.35pm) Maurice Sendak and Lewis Carroll meet Monty Python and M. C. Escher in Jim Henson's stiflingly elaborate fairy-tale. Jennifer Connelly and David Bowie are just about glimpsed among the gnomes, goblins and talking worms. (1986)

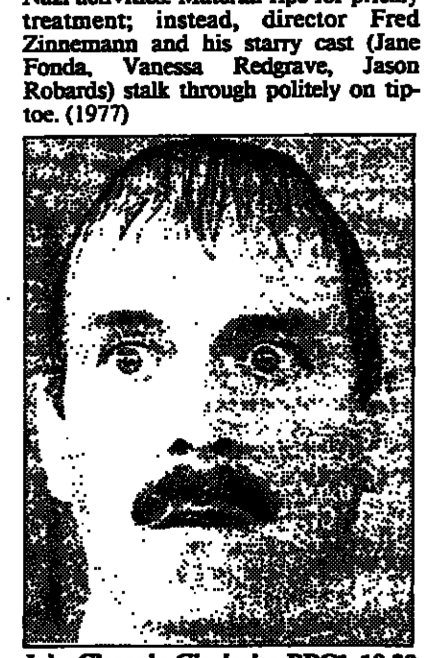
Legal Eagles (BBC1, 9.25-11.20pm) Would-be sophisticated comedy (plus slapstick trimmings), with Robert Redford and Debra Winger as legal eagles working on a murder case in New York's chic art world. Polished on the surface, flimsy within. (1986)

Love Story (BBC1, 12.20-2.00am) Three ways to take this marshmallow — you cry, you snigger, or you switch off. Ryan O'Neal and Ali McGraw are the starcrossed lovers rent asunder by leukaemia; Ray Milland plays the heavy father, minus his toupée for the first time. (1970)

Once upon a Time in the West (BBC2, 11.40pm-2.25am) A Sergio Leone season erupts with the complete version of this brilliantly orchestrated epic Western, with Claudia Cardinale as the lonely landowner stalked by a ice-cold killer (Henry Fonda). (1969)

The Road to Utopia (Channel 4, 11.05am-12.45pm) Klondike tomfoolery with Bob Hope, Bing Crosby, Dorothy Lamour, Paramount in-jokes, some indifferent songs, and a dry commentary by Robert Benchley. (1945)

Julia (Channel 4, 11.30pm-1.40am) Based on Lillian Hellman's recollections of a fiery childhood friend and her anti-Nazi activities. Material ripe for prickly treatment; instead, director Fred Zinnemann and his starry cast (Jane Fonda, Vanessa Redgrave, Jason Robards) stalk through politely on tip-toe. (1977)



John Cleese in *Clockwise*, BBC1, 10.30

Monkey Business (Channel 4, 1.40-3.05am) The Marx Brothers put their vaudeville and immigrant roots to excellent use in their first screen original, mostly set on the ocean waves. Inventive wordplay courtesy of S J Perelman; lively Thelma Todd adds class to the supporting cast. (1931)

the young man torn between love of the briny and the girl next door. (1931)

Babette's Feast (BBC2, 7.50-9.30pm) Gabriel Axel's immaculate version of Karen Blixen's short story about a famous Parisian chef (Stephane Audran) who tests her skills on an austere Lutheran community in Jutland. (1987)

My Name is Nobody (BBC2, 10.40pm-12.30am) Vigorous Western, produced by Sergio Leone and partly concocted with tongue in cheek, with Henry Fonda as a tired gunfighter pestered by a young admirer. Directed by Tonino Valerii. (1973)

On Her Majesty's Secret Service (ITV, 12.25-3.00pm) Unbalanced Bond adventure, top-heavy with lavish action sequences, and burdened with a lightweight lead (George Lazenby). Telly Savalas plays master criminal Blofeld; Diana Rigg provides jet-set glamour. (1969)

Down and Out in Beverly Hills (ITV, 9.00-10.55pm) Jean Renoir's Thirties classic *Boudou sauve des eaux* reworked by writer-director Paul Mazursky as a heavy-handed satire of Los Angeles' *nouveau riche*. Nick Nolte stars as the tramp taken into Richard Dreyfuss's home. (1986)

Raiders of the Lost Ark (ITV, 11.10pm-1.20am) Steven Spielberg and George Lucas joined forces to make the comic-strip adventures of maverick archeologist Indiana Jones (Harrison Ford) trying to save the Ark of the Covenant from the Nazis. (1981)

All Night Long (ITV, 1.20-3.00am) Gene Hackman gets the best of it in this gentle, wispy comedy about a frustrated drug store manager; a miscast Barbra Streisand gets the worst of it as his neighbour's wife. Directed by Jean-Claude Tramont. (1981)

Hard Country (ITV, 3.00-4.50am) An everyday story of young Texas folk, staged with more conviction than the material warrants; Kim Basinger launched her film career as the girl kicking her heels while her boyfriend (Jan-Michael Vincent) roisters. David Greene directs. (1981)

CHRISTMAS DAY

Crocodile Dundee (BBC1, 6.15-7.50pm) Broad, friendly comedy about a crocodile hunter (Paul Hogan) escorted through New York's urban jungle by an American reporter (Linda Kozlowski). With one bound, Hogan leaped from Australian TV and lager adverts to world fame. (1986)

Clockwise (BBC1, 10.20-11.55pm) John Cleese rules the roost as the punctilious headmaster whose composure unravels during a cross-country race against the clock. A meticulous exercise in British farce, written by Michael Frayn. (1985)

Key Largo (BBC1, 12.00-1.40am) Humphrey Bogart as a disgruntled GI stuck in a sweltering Florida hotel with Edward G Robinson's gansters. Son of *The Petrified Forest*, maybe, but the robust cast, tense atmosphere and creative direction (John Huston) breathe new life into the stereotypes. (1948)

Marius (BBC2, 3.00-5.00pm) The Pagnol trilogy of tales from the Marseilles waterfront is the film buff's greatest Christmas treat. Alexander Korda's direction gives this first instalment a faster pace than its successors; Pierre Fresnay sets the story rolling as

Pride and Prejudice (Channel Four, 1.10-3.25pm) Jane Austen meets the MGM gentility machine. The contest is a draw: many in the cast (Olivier, Greer Garson, Edmund Gwenn) fit snugly into their parts, and the script makes a fair stab at duplicating Austen's light, dry wit. (1940)

Richard III (Channel Four, 9.00-11.55pm) A step back, in cinema terms, from Olivier's imaginative handling of *Henry V* and *Hamlet*, though the performances easily command attention: aside from Olivier, Ralph Richardson as Buckingham, John Gielgud as Clarence. (1955)

Geoff Brown

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 24

PHILLUMENY
(b) A mongrel word for collecting matchbox labels, from the Greek *phil-* lover + Latin *lumen* light: "Phillumenites go weak in the knees at the prospect of a rare matchbook cover."

ACROMEGALIC
(b) Having oversized appendages, arms and legs, from the Greek *akros* the end + *megas*, *megalos* big: "At that moment a match flared on the far side of the room and illuminated the ruddy acromegalic features of Smirke."

SPITZ
(c) A Pomeranian dog: a group of breeds of dog generally having long hair, pointed ears, and a tightly curled tail, including the husky, samoyed, Pomeranian, etc., from the German word.

NEPHALISM
(c) Total abstinence from alcoholic drinks, from the Greek *nephein* to be sober: "This has been misunderstood as implying that nephalism was more fatal than tippling."

RADIO 1

FM Stereo and **MW**
News on the half-hour from **5.30am** until **12.30pm**, then at **2.30, 4.30, 7.30, 9.30**
5.00am Tim Smith **7.00** Bruno Brookes Breakfast Show with Liz Kershaw **9.30** Dave Lee Travis
12.30pm Pick of the Pops with Alan Freeman **3.00** Phillip Schofield: Going Live Christmas Special **5.00** Top 40 with Bruno Brookes **7.00** Anne Nightingale's Request Show **9.00** Andy Kershaw's Gospel Special **11.00-2.00am** Adrian Juste's Christmas Eve Party

RADIO 2

FM Stereo and **MW**
4.00am David Allan **6.00** Graham Knight **7.30** Good Morning Sunday **9.05** Melodies For You **11.00** Your Radio 2 All-Time Greats **1.00pm** Christmas Bursting Throughout the Blackout **2.00** Used Notes **3.00** Sing Something Simple (see Choice) **5.05** Charlie Chester **7.00** Living with Betty **7.30** Dennis O'Neill (new series) **8.30** Sunday Half-Hour **9.00** Another Christmas at Althorp **10.05** Carols from the Chapter House of York Minster **1.30-3.00am** Nightride Special

WORLD SERVICE

5.00am German Features **5.35** News in German; Headlines in English and French **5.50** Financial Review **5.55** Weather and Travel News **6.00** Newsdesk **6.30** Londres Matin **7.00** News **7.09** 24 Hours **7.30** From Our Own Correspondent **7.45** Book Choice **7.50** Waveguide **8.00** News **8.09** Words of Faith **8.15** The Pleasure's Yours **9.00** News **9.09** Review of the British Press **9.15** Nature Now **9.30** Financial Review **9.40** Book Choice **9.45** Short Story: The Shadow and the Gypsy **10.01** Science in Action **10.30** In Praise of God **11.00** News **11.09** News About Britain **11.15** From Our Own Correspondent **11.30** Londres Midi **12.00** Play of the Week: Crisp and Even Brightly **1.00pm** News **1.09** 24 Hours **1.30** Sports Roundup **1.45** Personal View **2.01** Phone-in **3.02** Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols **4.30** Nachrichten **4.40** German Features **5.00** World News **5.09** Book Choice **5.15** BBC English **5.30** Londres Soir **6.15** BBC English **6.30** Nachrichten **6.40** German Christmas Special **7.54** Nachrichten **8.00** World News **8.09** Personal View **8.25** Words of Faith **8.30** Radio Fun at Christmas **9.01** Paddy's Christmas Cracker **9.15** The Pleasure's Yours **10.00** Newshour **11.00** World News **11.05** Words of Faith **11.10** Book Choice **11.15** Letter from America **11.30** Phone-in **12.00** Newsdesk **12.30am** Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols **1.01** The Good Book **1.30** Readings from the Good Book **1.45** The Art of James Galway **2.00** World News **2.09** Prisoners of Conscience **2.15** Andy Kershaw's World of Music **2.30** Science in Action **3.00** World News **3.09** News about Britain **3.15** Good Books **3.30** Looking for a King **4.00** Newsdesk **4.30** Letter from America **4.45** Nachrichten

RADIO 3

6.55am Weather
7.00 In dulci jubilo: Christmas music from Baroque Germany. Scheidt (In dulci jubilo Canzon super cantionem gallicam); Schütz (Hodie Christus natus est: London Cornett and Sackbut Ensemble under Martin Neary; Winchester Cathedral Choir); Praetorius (Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern; In dulci jubilo: Taverner Consort, Choir and Players under Andrew Parrott)
7.30 News
7.35 Polish Peasants and Saxon Squires: Bach (Sinfonia "Christmas Oratorio": Taverner Players under Andrew Parrott); Schmelzer (Polnische Sackpfeiffen: Musica Antiqua of Cologne under Reinhard Goebel); Telemann (Concerto polonois: Academy of Ancient Music under Hogwood); Bach (Peasant Cantata: Vienna Concentus Musicus under Harnoncourt)
8.30 News
8.35 Your Christmas Choice: Bax (Christmas Eve: LPO under Bryden Thomson); Hely-Hutchinson (Carol Symphony: Pro Arte Orchestra under Barry Rose); Schoenberg (Weihnachtsmusik: Members of the London Sinfonietta); Vaughan Williams (Hodie: LSO under David Willcocks)
10.30 A Christmas Music Weekly: The definition of a carol is discussed by Michael Oliver, with Stephen Cleobury, Hugh Keyte, William Llewellyn and John Rutter
11.15 BBC Welsh SO under Mariss Jansons performs Beethoven (Piano Concerto No 3 in C minor); Strauss (Ein Heldenleben)
12.45pm Schubert's Octet in F, D 803 (Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields Chamber Ensemble)
2.50 Haydn — The Late Masses (new series): The Choir and Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment under Ton Koopman performs the first of six concerts given in the Queen Elizabeth Hall, featuring the six masses composed between 1796-1802 for the name day of Haydn's patron's wife, Princess Marie Hermengild Esterházy. Haydn (Symphony No 99 in E flat; Cantata, Berenic che fai?); Haydn (Missa sancti Bernardi von Offida "Heiligmesse"), incl **2.30** Interval Reading
3.20 Chicago SO under Georg Solti performs Bartók (Portraits for orchestra, Op 5); Schumann (Piano Concerto in A minor); Tchaikovsky (Symphony No 5 in E minor)
4.55 Celebrity Recital: Elly Ameling, soprano, Rudolf Jansen, piano, perform Mahler (Rheinlegendchen; Scheiden und Meiden; Ablösung im Sommer; Das irdische Leben; Ich ging mit Lust durch einen grünen Wald; Wer hat dies Liedlein erdacht?; Lob des hohen Verstandes; Frühlingsmorgen; Erinnerung; Ich atmet' einen Linden Duft; Liebst du um Schönheit; Ich bin der Welt abhanden gekommen); Poulenc (Fiançailles pour rire); Ravel (Five Greek Folk Songs; Tripatos); Satie (Ludions)
6.15 The 1989 Reith Lectures: Beyond the Tunnel of History. Part 5: Towards the Light. French writer Jacques Darras on the cultural future of a shared Europe (r)
6.45 Bach: The pianist Andras Schiff performs English Suites — No 2 in A minor, BWV 807; No 4 in F, BWV 809
7.35 Vespers from Venice: English Baroque Soloists; London Oratory Junior Choir; Monteverdi Choir under John Eliot Gardiner perform Monteverdi's Vespers of the Blessed Virgin, 1610. From the Basilica of St Mark's, Venice (simultaneous broadcast from 7.20pm on BBC2)
9.10 Sir John Gielgud (new series) with four readings from *As We Were*, by E.F. Benson (1867-1940). Part 1: Lincoln-Truro-Cambridge
9.40 The Heart of Love: A meditation on the Nativity, recorded in Durham Cathedral
10.40 Bach: The pianist Andras Schiff performs 15 Three-part Inventions; English Suite No 6 in D minor, BWV 811
11.35 Cosima's Christmas Stocking: Two works, written by Wagner to Cosima, born on Christmas Eve 1837. The Vienna PO under Georg Solti performs Siegfried Idyll; Members of Vienna PO under Solti; Members of Vienna Boys' Choir, perform Children's Catechism for Cosel's Birthday
12.00 News
12.05-1.15am Messe de minuit (see Choice)

RADIO 4

LW (s) Stereo on **FM**
5.55am Shipping Forecast **6.00** News Briefing; Weather **6.10** Prelude with Marjorie Lofthouse (s) **6.30** Morning Has Broken, with Jack Hywel-Davies. Including Bells on Sunday from St Paul's Cathedral, London (s) **6.55** Weather **7.00** News **7.10** Sunday Papers
7.15 On Your Farm: Claire Powell visits writer and cartoonist Henry Brewis, who takes a humorous look at life down on the farm **7.40** Sunday, with Clive Jacobs and Andrew Green, incl **7.55** Weather **8.00** News **8.10** Sunday Papers
8.50 Appeal by Baroness Seear on behalf of the Carers' National Association which works for the six million men and women who look after someone at home **8.55** Weather
9.00 News
9.10 Sunday Papers
9.15 Letter from America by *Alistair Cooke (r)*
9.30 Morning Service: The Rev Prof. John de Gruchy, Professor of Christian Studies at the University of Cape Town, preaches from the University and Parish Church of St Paul's, Bristol
10.15 The Archers omnibus edition
11.15 News Stand with Nicholas Comfort
11.30 Pick of the Week with Margaret Howard (s) (r)
12.15pm Desert Island Discs: Sue Lawley in conversation with The Duchess of Kent (s) **12.55** Weather
1.00 News
1.10 With Great Pleasure: Columnist Miles Kington, inventor of *Franglais*, shares a selection of his favourite poetry and prose with the assistance of Sheila Steafel and Kerry Shale (s) **1.55** Shipping Forecast
2.00 Gardeners' Question Time from the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology. Members of the Senior Union Gardening Club put their queries to Dr Stefan Buczacki, Fred Downham and Ken Hulme. With Clay Jones in the chair
2.30 The Beasts of Ambridge: Play by Paul Burns. With Trevor Harrison as Clint the Turkey (s) (see Choice)
3.30 A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols: *Introduced by* Brian Kay from King's College Chapel, Cambridge (s) (see Choice)
4.30 Saying the Word: Profile of retired Catholic Priest Fr George Saintsbury who found his vocation after many other jobs, including actor, teacher, boxer and policeman
5.00 News; Down Your Way: In the first of two programmes, actor, writer and philosopher Peter Ustinov visits Moscow **5.50** Shipping Forecast **5.55** Weather
6.00 News
6.15 Uncle Mort's North Country: Five episodes by Peter Tinniswood. Part 1: My Friend Dornford. With Stephen Thorne as Uncle Mort, Peter Skellern as Carter Brandon and Jim Broadbent as Dornford Scargill. Narrated by Christian Rodska (s) (r)
6.30 Off to See The Wizard: Nigel Andrews tells the story of MGM's blockbuster musical *The Wizard of Oz*, 50 years old this year (s) (r)
7.15 Bookshelf: Nigel Peters with novelist Ellis Peters (r)
7.45 A Tale of Two Cities: Dramatization of Charles Dickens's classic story. Part 2: Five Years Later (s) (r)
8.45 The Tingle Factor: Peter Barkworth talks with Robin Ray about the music that makes his spine tingle (s) (r)
9.15 The Natural History Programme (r) **9.59** Weather
10.00 News
10.05 The Angel's Shadow: A *dramatic presentation of* poetry, prose and music to celebrate the role of Mary in the Christmas Story (s)
10.50 Lark Rise Today: Chris Nicholson visits Juniper Hill, 50 years after the publication of Flora Thompson's *Lark Rise*, and discovers whether life in the village has changed. Readings by Margaret Courtenay (r)
11.00 Midnight Mass from the Cathedral Church of St Marie, Sheffield, led by the Rev Gerald Moverley, Bishop of Hallam (s)
12.33am Shipping Forecast
FM as **LW** *except:*
1.55-2.00pm Programme News
5.50-5.55 Programme News

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1: 1053kHz/285m;1089kHz/275m;FM-97.6-99.8. (London area FM-104.8.) **Radio 2:** 693kHz/433m;909kHz/330m;FM-88-90.2. **Radio 3:** 1215kHz/ 247m; FM-90-92.4. **Radio 4:** 198kHz/1515m;FM-92.4-94.6. **LBC:** 1152kHz/261m; FM 97.3. **Capital:** 1548kHz/194m; FM 95.8. **Greater London Radio:** 1458kHz/206m; FM 94.9; **World Service:** MW 648kHz/463m.

TELEVISION & RADIO Christmas Day

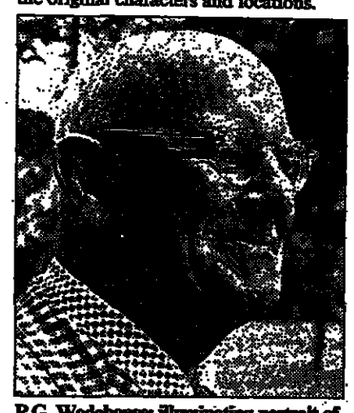
CHOICE

Television

● Unlike many Christmas "specials" John Sullivan's **Only Fools and Horses . . .** (BBC1, 4.05pm) has never found any difficulty filling out beyond its normal length. Some would say that the longer the episodes the better, enabling Sullivan to develop his low-life wit and feel for character. For tonight's offering he has resisted a seasonal theme in favour of sending the lads off on a Bank Holiday outing to the seaside. It is the cue for a chapter of mishaps, including an accident to the coach, dreadful digs and Rodney getting himself arrested.

● Miss Marple (Joan Hickson) forsakes the Home Counties for Barbados to solve **A Caribbean Mystery** (BBC1, 7.50pm). Sadly, this is the last television Marple – not because the 83-year-old star is feeling her age but because the rights to the books have expired. The sudden death of Major Palgrave, the local bore, sets Miss Marple loose among a rich company of suspects, including a bizarre millionaire played in suitably sinister style by Donald Pleasence.

● **Plum** (BBC2, 9.30pm) is an excellent documentary on P.G. Wodehouse, the shy workaholic whose refusal to take life too seriously led him into hot water when he was interned in 1940 and persuaded to broadcast over German radio. Treated in detail, this episode forms the centrepiece of an illuminating portrait of an elusive personality. Contributors include Tom Sharpe, Frances Donaldson and a Colonel Murphy who claims to have identified the original characters and locations.



P.G. Wodehouse: illuminating portrait of an elusive personality (BBC2, 9.30pm)

Radio

● **Treasure Island** (Radio 4, 3.00pm) is as deadly as Silver's flying crutch; Hispaniola timbers creak; tropical birds call; Peter Jeffrey, though not making a Robert Newton meal of Long John, still spreads the mustard thickly on the red meat; Hugh Paddick's Ben Gunn ecstatically shouts "Parmesan!". Adapted by John Scotney, but, Shiver Me Timbers!, this is Stevenson to the life.

● Radio 2's re-assembling of the original cast of **I'm Sorry I'll Read that Again** for a 25th anniversary celebration (1.02pm) is epic lunacy. I intend that to sound complimentary but, after having watched the show being recorded in an atmosphere of near hysteria, I am not sure of anything any more.

BBC 1

7.00 The Nativity Play (r) **7.10** Bluetoes the Christmas Elf **7.30** Playdays **7.50** Ziggy's Gift (r) **8.15** A Merry Mirthworm Christmas (r) **8.40** A Flintstone Christmas

9.30 Eggs 'n' Baker. Cheryl Baker's special guests are Jason Donovan, Sinitta, Big Fun, Sonia and Jimmy Somerville **9.55** Weather

10.00 Christmas Celebration. Roy Castle celebrates Christmas morning at his home parish, the Gold Hill Baptist church in Chalfont St Peter, Buckinghamshire

11.00 Noel's Christmas Presents. Noel Edmonds introduces surprises, emotional reunions and special gifts for special people

12.00 Porridge: Disturbing the Peace. Fletcher is delighted when he hears that Mackay is being sent on a course. But his happiness is short-lived when he discovers the identity of his replacement. Starring Ronnie Barker, Richard Beckinsale, Fulton Mackay and Brian Wilde (r)

12.30 Dad's Army: My Brother and I. Captain Mainwaring has a nasty surprise when his drunken brother turns up at a sherry party he is giving for the Home Guard top brass. With Arthur Lowe, John le Mesurier and Clive Dunn (r)

1.10 Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em: Jessica's First Christmas. Frank volunteers to build the parish's set for the Nativity play, but his hopes of having a part in the play are dashed until the Angel of the Lord fails to show up for rehearsals and he is asked to step in. Starring Michael Crawford and Michele Dotrice (r)

2.00 Top of the Pops Christmas Show introduced by Gary Davies, Bruno Brookes and Jakki Brambles. The guests include Jason Donovan, Lisa Stansfield, Black Box, Sonia, London Boys, the Beautiful Self, Erasure, Mike and the Mechanics and Michael Ball

3.00 The Queen addresses the nation and the Commonwealth. (Ceefax)

3.15 Bread. In an attempt to do their bit for the environment and the ozone layer, the Boswells agree to a plastic tree and an organically-grown Christmas dinner. (Ceefax)

4.05 Only Fools and Horses . . . (Ceefax) (see Choice)

5.30 News with Jill Dando. Weather

5.35 The Russ Abbot Christmas Show. (Ceefax)

6.15 Film: Crocodile Dundee (1986) starring Paul Hogan and Linda Kozlowski. Directed by Peter Faiman. (Ceefax) (see Film panel)

7.50 Agatha Christie's Miss Marple: A Caribbean Mystery. (Ceefax) (see Choice)

9.40 In Sickness and in Health. Mrs Hollingbery isn't at all amused when Alf wins the sympathy of the local vicar, who gives him a Christmas hamper and forces him to donate it to the old folk's raffle. The only way to get it back is to ensure his name is pulled first out of the hat. Starring Warren Mitchell and Carmel McSharry

10.10 News with Jill Dando. Weather

10.20 Film: Clockwise (1985) (Ceefax) (see Film panel)

11.55 Christmas Epilogue: The Word Made Flesh. The prologue of St John's Gospel, read by Alec McCowen

12.00 Film: Key Largo (1948 b/w), starring Humphrey Bogart, Lauren Bacall, Edward G. Robinson, Lionel Barrymore and Claire Trevor. Classic thriller about a Second World War veteran who is stranded at a hotel on the Florida Keys when a storm blows up. He finds that the other guests include a notorious gangster and his mob. Directed by John Huston. (Ceefax) (see Film panel)

1.40am Weather

ITV/LONDON

5.15 Scooby Goes to Hollywood (r)

6.00 TV-am begins with Cartoon Capers; **7.30** Benji, Zak and the Alien Prince

8.00 News followed by Good Morning Britain

9.25 Bugs Bunny and Friends at Christmas

10.15 The Other Side of Christmas. A live spectacular from the London Arena in the capital's Docklands. Hosted by Anneka Rice, the programme includes a Christmas morning service from St Michael and All Angels in Hackney and a link with Glasgow Royal Maternity Hospital welcoming Christmas babies to the world

12.25 Film: On Her Majesty's Secret Service (1969) starring George Lazenby, Diana Rigg and Telly Savalas. James Bond does battle with arch villain Blofeld who is attempting to blackmail the world by threatening to unleash a biological time bomb which will destroy plant and animal life. Directed by Peter Hunt (see page 36)

3.00 The Queen. The Queen speaks to the Commonwealth

3.15 Film: The BFG (1989). A feature-length animated film version of Roald Dahl's children's story about a Big Friendly Giant who makes children's dreams come true. Directed by Brian Cosgrove.

5.00 Home and Away. Steven reveals that Carly has reacted badly to city life

5.30 News and weather

5.40 Strike It Lucky Christmas Special with special guest Frank Bruno

6.30 Comedy Christmas Box. Jim Davidson introduces clips from popular shows including those featuring Billy Connolly, Tommy Cooper, Charlie Drake, Kenny Everett, Benny Hill and Morecambe and Wise

8.00 Coronation Street. Ken Barlow has some explaining to do. (Oracle)

8.30 After Henry. Realising that without Henry, Christmas will never be the same, Sarah, Eleanor and Clare decide to accept all the invitations they receive

9.00 Film: Down and Out in Beverly Hills (1986) starring Nick Nolte and Bette Midler. Directed by Paul Mazursky. (Oracle) (see page 36)

10.55 News and weather

11.10 Film: Raiders of the Lost Ark (1981) starring Harrison Ford. Archaeologist Indiana Jones learns that the Nazis have found the lost Egyptian city containing the Well of Souls, fabled resting place of the ancient Ark of the Covenant. He soon becomes involved in a hair-raising chase to prevent the omnipotent Ark from falling into the hands of the Germans. Directed by Steven Spielberg. (Oracle) (see page 36)

1.20am Film: All Night Long (1981) starring Gene Hackman, Barbra Streisand and Diane Ladd. George Dupler is demoted to managing a downtown all-night drugstore when, after years of boredom in his middle-management job, he throws a chair through his boss's office window. At the store he meets Cheryl, who is having an affair with his son Freddie. Directed by Jean-Claude Tramont (see page 36)

3.00 Film: Hard Country (1981) starring Jan-Michael Vincent, Kim Basinger and Michael Parks. Kyle's life in a small Texas town consists of working all day and partying all night. His girlfriend Jodie wants to marry him, but she also wants to leave Texas and plans a new life in Los Angeles as an air hostess. Directed by David Greene (see page 36)

4.50 Rich Little's Robin Hood. American impressionist Rich Little plays all 16 characters in this comedy, including Robin Hood and Maid Marion

5.50 ITN Morning News. Ends at **6.00**

BBC 2

8.25 The Third Man (b/w) starring Michael Rennie **8.50** Buck Rogers (b/w) in *Tragedy at Saturn* **9.10** Flash Gordon Conquers the Universe (b/w)

9.30 Berlin Freedom Concert. Live by satellite from East Berlin, an orchestra assembled from both sides of the Iron Curtain, conducted by Leonard Bernstein, perform Beethoven's *Choral Symphony* and Schiller's *Ode to Joy*

11.00 Film: The Prince and the Pauper (1977) starring Oliver Reed, Raquel Welch, Rex Harrison and Charlton Heston. Directed by Richard Fleischer. (Ceefax) (see page 36) **1.00** The Boy and the Snowgoose. Cartoon

1.10 Fred Astaire. The second of a two-part tribute to the celebrated Hollywood hoofer (r)

2.00 A Christmas Day Concert. The Royal Amsterdam Concertgebouw Orchestra performs the complete ballet concert version of Ravel's *Daphnis and Chloe*, live from Amsterdam. The conductor is Riccardo Chailly

3.00 Film: Marius (1931 b/w) starring Pierre Fresney and Orane Demazis. Classic French film, set in a harbour village in the south of France, about a young man who is torn apart by the two dearest things in his life – the girl next door and his love of the sea. A French film with English subtitles. Directed by Alexander Korda (see page 36)

5.00 Aida from the Met. A performance of Verdi's Egyptian spectacular *Aida*, which was recorded at New York's Metropolitan Opera House in October. Written to celebrate the opening of the Suez Canal and first performed in 1871, it is the story of an Ethiopian slave-girl's struggle to compete against the superior forces of Amneris, an Egyptian princess, for the love of a warrior. With Placido Domingo, Aprile Millo, Dolora Zajick and the Chorus and Orchestra of the Metropolitan Opera House, New York, conducted by James Levine

7.35 The Queen. The Queen's speech to the Commonwealth, with sign-language interpretation by Maureen Denmark (r)

7.50 Film: Babette's Feast (1987) starring Stephane Audran and directed by Gabriel Axel (see page 36)

9.30 Plum (see Choice)

10.40 Film: My Name is Nobody (1973) starring Henry Fonda and Terence Hill. Western about an ageing gunfighter who decides to retire and take a trip to Europe. On his way to New Orleans, he encounters a young admirer who convinces him to take on a last challenge which will make a fitting exit to his years of gun-slinging. Directed by Tonino Valerii (see page 36)

12.30am Weather

CHANNEL 4

6.00 Creation. A gospel music version from the Canterbury Festival, featuring the People Get Ready Choir

7.00 Dennis **7.25** Aladdin. Animated version

8.45 Countdown Masters **8.55** Dai Mouse narrated by David Jason

9.10 The Poetry Book. Poems read by Paul Scofield, Alan Bennett, and Derek Jacobi

9.25 Sesame Street Christmas Special

10.30 The Adventures of Tintin. Episode one (of 11) **10.35** The Batman (b/w). Episode three (of 15)

11.00 Silent Mouse. The story of the origin of the Christmas carol Silent Night, the authorship of which remained anonymous for many years (r)

12.00 The Greatest (Little) Show on Earth. A troupe of 40 children who perform in Australia's Flying Fruit Fly Circus **1.00** George and Rosemary. Cartoon

1.10 Film: Pride and Prejudice (1940 b/w) starring Laurence Olivier. (Oracle) (see page 36)

3.25 Birthday. The Rev Alan Ecclestone introduces a selection of his own poetry read by Dame Judi Dench

3.40 An Evening for Armenia. A gala concert, sponsored by *The Times*, recorded earlier this year at the Royal Opera House (r)

5.10 The Queen. The Queen delivers her traditional Christmas address to the nation **5.25** News summary

5.30 The Snowman. The award-winning animated version of Raymond Briggs's illustrated story of a snowman who comes to life (r)

6.00 The Little Sweep. A special production of Benjamin Britten's short opera about the life of an eight-year-old chimney sweep

7.00 Circus of the Sun. A circus starring humans rather than animals

8.00 Brookside. Sue and Terry are settling down for a quiet Christmas when Jonathan, Barry and Jack all arrive. (Oracle)

8.30 Cheers. Sam returns to the Boston bar after his round-the-world sailing trip. (Oracle)

9.00 Film: Richard III (1955) starring Laurence Olivier, Claire Bloom, Ralph Richardson, John Gielgud, Michael Gough and Cedric Hardwicke. Shakespeare's drama about Richard Crookback's scheming tothe throne of England. Directed by Laurence Olivier (see page 36)

11.55 La Nativite du Seigneur. Solo organist Jennifer Bare performs Olivier Messiaen's masterpiece

1.00am The Prince's Trust 88 Rock Gala. A benefit concert performed before the Prince and Princess of Wales with stars from both sides of the Atlantic (r). Ends at **2.35**

SATELLITE

SKY ONE

5.00am Sky News **5.30** Ritter's Cove **6.00** DJ Kat Show **8.30** The Tiny Tree **9.00** Joanie Loves Chachi **9.30** Christmas Carols from St Albans **10.30** Mr Krueger's Christmas **11.00** Nora's Christmas Gift **12.00** Eight is Enough **2.00pm** Voyagers **3.00** The Queen's Christmas Message **3.10** Here's Boomer **4.00** Countdown **5.00** Sky Star Search **6.00** The New Price is Right **6.30** Sale of the Century **7.00** Alf **8.00** Film: Hambone and Hillie **9.50** The Queen's Christmas Message **10.00** Derek Jameson Christmas Special **11.00** Sky World News Tonight **11.30** Countdown

SKY NEWS

News on the hour.
5.00am Sky News **5.30** Entertainment This Week **6.30** BMTV Good Health **7.30** Beyond 2000 **8.30** News Review '89 **9.30** Carols of Christmas **10.30** BMTV Good Health **11.30** Our World **12.30pm** NBC Today **1.30** NBC Today **2.30** News Review 1989 **3.30** The Queen's Christmas Broadcast **4.30** Our World **5.00** Live at Five **5.30** Royal Review 1989 **6.30** Beyond 2000 **7.30** The Queen **8.30** The Frank Bough interview **9.30** Newsline **10.30** The Queen **11.30** NBC News **12.30am** The FBI **1.30** News Review '89 **2.30** NBC News **3.30** News Review '89 **4.30** Newsline

SKY MOVIES

6.00am Transformers – The Movie (1986): Animated robot story
8.00 Spacecamp (1986): Starring Lea Thompson and Kate Capshaw
10.00 It's a Wonderful Life (1946): Christmas classic, starring James Stewart
12.25pm Flight of the Navigator (1986): A boy discovers he's been missing for eight years
2.00 Star Wars (1977): Space adventure, with Mark Hamill and Harrison Ford
4.00 The Boy Who Could Fly (1986): The friendship between an autistic orphan and his new neighbour
6.00 Three Men and a Baby (1987): Tom Selleck, Steve Guttenberg and Ted Danson are left holding the baby
8.00 Police Academy 4: Citizens on Patrol (1987): The trainee police squad is back on the streets
10.00 Predator (1987): Starring Arnold Schwarzenegger
11.45 Aliens (1986): Starring Sigourney Weaver
2.00 Angel Heart (1987): Supernatural tale, starring Mickey Rourke
4.00 The Cotton Club (1984): Set in the famous Harlem nightclub, starring Richard Gere. Ends at **6.00am**

EUROSPORT

5.00am Sky News **5.30** Ritter's Cove **6.00** DJ Kat Show **8.30** Menu **9.00** Gymnastics **10.00** Sailing **11.00** Basketball **12.00** Female Athletes of the Year **1.00pm** Figure Skating **2.00** Cricket: West Indies v Pakistan **3.00** 16 Days of Glory: 1988 Winter Olympics in Calgary, Canada **5.00** Goal: 1966 World Cup **7.00** Ice Hockey: Chicago Blackhawks v Toronto Maple Leafs **9.00** Motor Sport **10.00** Conquer the Aractic **11.00** Surfing Special

SCREENSPORT

7.00am US College Football **9.00** Wide World of Sport **10.00** Uni Royal Truckspeed Event **11.00** Powersports International **12.00** US College Basketball **1.30pm** Ice Hockey **3.30** A Day in the Life of an NHL Ice Hockey Player **4.30** US College Basketball **6.00** Sport en France **6.30** Karate **7.30** Ice Skating **9.15** US Professional Boxing **10.45** NFL '89 Highlights **12.00** Motorsport

● Full information on satellite TV programmes is available in the weekly magazine, TV Guide.

VARIATIONS

BBC1 WALES: **1.40am-1.45** News and weather SCOTLAND: **12.00** Singing Kettle **12.10pm** The Spirit of Christmas **1.10** Cartoon **1.15-2.00** The Beechgrove Garden

ANGLIA As London except:**4.50am-5.50** Rich Little's Christmas Carol.

BORDER As London except:**9.25am** Moderator's Christmas Message **9.35** Christmas Comes to Packend **10.05-10.15** Cartoon.

GRAMPIAN As London except:**9.25am** The Moderator's Christmas Message **9.35** Dusty the Snowman **10.05-10.15** Birthday Sport.

SCOTTISH As London except:**9.25am** The Moderator's Christmas Message **9.35-10.15** Glen Michael's Christmas Special.

S4C Starts:**8.00am** Early Morning **9.25** Sesame Street **10.25** The Snowman **10.55** Christmas Fairytale **11.05** The Batman' **11.30** Film: The Holly and the Ivy" (Celia Johnson, Ralph Richardson) **1.00pm** Facing the Angels **2.00** Cinderella **3.45** The Queen **4.00** Starlight Serenaders **4.10** Birthday **4.30** Film Nadolig: Y Cloc **5.00** News **5.05** Stori Blewyn Coch **5.30** Pobol Y Cwm **7.00** Nadolig Gyda Stuart Burrows **8.00** Dinas **8.30** Film Nadolig: Derrydd Aur **10.15** An Evening for Armenia **11.55** La Nativite Du Seigneur **1.00am** The Prince's Trust '88 Rock Gala **2.35** Closedown.

RTE 1 Starts:**9.25am** Service **10.10** Aifreann Do Féile Na Nollaig **10.55** Urbi Et Orbi **11.30** Christmas Messages **11.40** Yours to Keep **1.00pm** Ballet Favourites **1.20** Film: Oklahoma! (Gordon MacRae, Shirley Jones) **3.35** Film: Pinocchio **5.00** The Magic Violin **5.30** Film: Crocodile Dundee (Paul Hogan, Linda Kozlowski) **7.05** Fair City **7.35** No 1 **8.05** The Spirit of Christmas **9.10** News **9.20** Film: Out of Africa (Meryl Streep, Robert Redford) **11.55** Silent Night with Joe Carraras **12.30am** News **12.40** Closedown.

NETWORK 2 Starts: **7.30am** Bosco **8.00** A Christmas Story **8.35** Smurfs Christmas Show **9.10** Christmas Every Day **9.45** Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs **10.50** Lassie's Christmas Show **11.40** Worzel Gummidge **1.00** ALF Special Christmas **2.00** The Nutcracker **3.30** Top of the Pops **4.30** Jo-Maxi Christmax Special **5.30** The Snowman **6.00** Cursai Na Nollag **6.35** Home and Away **6.55** Muacht **7.00** Family Ties **7.25** Free Ride **7.55** Coronation Street **8.00** Pavarotti at Madison Square Garden **9.25** Peace in No Man's Land **10.05** Film: Never Say Never Again (Sean Connery, Klaus Maria Brandauer) **12.10am** Closedown.

RADIO 1

FM stereo and **MW**
News on the half-hour from **5.30am** until **8.30pm**, then at **10.00pm**
5.00am Jakki Brambles **7.30** Nicky Campbell's Breakfast Show **10.00** Simon Bates, incl **11.00** The Queen speaks to the Commonwealth **12.30pm** Newsbeat **12.35** Christmas Dinner with the DJs **2.30** Tim Smith **4.00** Christmas Special **6.30** McCartney on McCartney **7.30** The Christmas Concert: Elton John recorded at Popular Creek, Chicago in September 1988 **8.30** CD Christmas Box Set **10.30-2.00am** The Grotto Blaster

RADIO 2

FM Stereo and **MW**
3.00am Steve Madden **6.00** Christ Stuart **8.00** Good Morning Christmas **10.00** The Queen speaks to the Commonwealth **10.10** Michael Aspel **12.30pm** Ken Dodd's Christmas Cracker **1.00** I'm Sorry I'll Read That Again (see Choice)**2.00** Angela Rippon **4.00** Handel's Messiah in Brass **6.00** Christmas Glow **7.00** Colin Wilkinson Special **8.00** Be My Love **9.00** The Best of Jazz on Record **10.00** Jazz Score **10.30** From the Film of the Same Name **11.00** This Was Children In Need **1.00-4.00am** Nightride

RADIO 3

6.55am Weather and News Headlines
7.00 Christmas Carols: Bach (Unser Mund sei voll lachens, BWV 110: Concentus Musicus, Vienna, under Harnoncourt)
7.30 News
7.35 Morning Concert: Britten (Men of Goodwill: Minnesota Orchestra under Neville Marriner); Chopin (Berceuse: Vladimir Ashkenazy, piano); Brahms (Sandmännchen: Elly Ameling, soprano, Dalton Baldwin, piano); Mozart (Horn Concerto No 4 in E flat: Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields under Neville Marriner); Bax (Festival Overture: LPO under Bryden Thomson)
8.30 News
8.35 Composers of the Week: Schubert. Symphony No 1 in D (Dresden State Orchestra under Wolfgang Sawallisch); Lazarus, excerpts (Stuttgart RSO and Choir under Gabriel Chmura)
9.35 Morning Sequence: Scheidt (Galliard Battaglia: Philip Jones Brass Ensemble); Delius (Sleigh Ride: Northern Sinfonia under Hickox); Grainger (Shepherd's Hey: Bournemouth Sinfonietta under Kenneth Montgomery); Vaughan Williams (Fantasia on a Theme by Thomas Tallis: LPO under Bryden Thomson); Bach (Concerto for four harpsichords and strings, BWV 1065: English Concert under Pinnock); Kodály (Suite, Háry János: Budapest PO under János Ferencsik); John Playford (Lill Burlero: Broadside Band); Eric Coates (London Suite: RLPO under Groves); Haydn (Symphony No 104 in D "London": Academy of Ancient Music under Christopher Hogwood, fortepiano); Purcell (Chacony in G minor: English Concert under Pinnock); Mendelssohn (Octet in E flat, Op 20: Academy Chamber Ensemble)
12.05pm Christmas Quiz: Hosted by David Owen Norris. With three musicians – flute-player Philippa Davies, composer Robert Saxton and pianist Peter Donohoe; and three music-lovers – Delta O'Cathain, who will become managing director of the Barbican Centre on 1 January, actor Timothy West and journalist Miles Kington
1.05 For a Later Age (new series): The first of nine programmes of chamber and piano music by Beethoven. The pianist Richard Goode performs Sonata in E flat, Op 31 No 3; Sonata in F minor, Op 57 "Appassionata"; Bagatelles, Op 126; Sonata in A flat, Op 110, incl **1.50** Interval Reading
2.40 A Passionate Ignoramus?: Michael Oliver gives a portrait of Sir John Barbirolli (1899-1970). With Evelyn Barbirolli, Michael Kennedy, Martin Milner and archive recordings of Sir John himself, incl **2.55** Hallé Choir and Orchestra and the Boys of Manchester Grammar School, with Kerstin Meyer, mezzo-soprano, under John Barbirolli perform Mahler (Symphony No 3 in D minor)
4.30 A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols: From King's College Chapel, Cambridge. Introduced by Brian Kay (r)
6.00 Forgotten Reputations? (new series): John Amis recalls the career of the soprano Margaret Ritchie (1903-69), in the first of six programmes, incl **6.30** Margaret Ritchie sings in Purcell (The Blessed Virgin's Expostulation: with George Malcolm, harpsichord); Schubert (Der Hirt auf dem Felsen: with Reginald Kell, clarinet, Gerald Moore, piano); Mahler (Symphony No 4 in G, fourth movement: with Royal Amsterdam Concertgebouw Orchestra under Eduard van Beinum)
7.00 News
7.05 Rachmaninov: Jocelyn Abbott and Richard Mapp, piano duet, perform Six Morceaux, Op 11
7.30 Peer Gynt, by Henrik Ibsen. Translated by Norman Ginsbury. A repeat of the original 1943 broadcast of the production by Tyrone Guthrie, with Ralph Richardson as Peer Gynt. Music performed by the London Symphony Orchestra under Walter Goehr, who also arranged Grieg's music for the production, incl **8.55-9.00** Interval
10.30 A Christmas Oratorio, by Marc-Antoine Charpentier. Les Arts Florissants under William Christie perform In nativitatem Domini canticum
11.00 Composers of the Week: Fauré (Cantique de Jean Racine, Op 11) (r)
12.00 News
12.05am Close

WORLD SERVICE

5.00am German Christmas Feature 5.35 News in German: Headlines in English and French 5.47 Christmas Music 6.00 Newsdesk 6.30 Londres Matin 7.00 News 7.09 24 Hours 7.30 Gluttony: Food Glorious Food 8.00 News 8.09 Words of Faith 8.15 A Radio Christmas Carol 8.30 Anything Goes 9.00 News 9.09 Prisoners of Conscience 9.15 Good Books 9.30 The Queen Speaks to the Commonwealth 9.35 Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols 11.00 News 11.09 News about Britain 11.15 Tech Talk 11.30 Londres Midi 12.00 Newsreel 12.15pm Counterpoint 12.45 The Waits 1.00 News 1.09 24 Hours 1.30 Radio Fun at Christmas 2.01 Looking for a King 2.30 Off the Shelf 2.45 Viva Garibaldi 3.00 The Queen 3.05 News 3.15 The Good Book 3.45 Readings from the Good Book 4.00 News 4.09 News about Britain 4.15 BBC English 4.30 Nachrichten 4.40 German Features 5.00 World News 5.09 Prisoners of Conscience 5.15 Presenter's Choice 5.30 Londres Soir 6.15 BBC English 6.30 Nachrichten 6.40 German Feature 7.54 Nachrichten 8.00 News 8.09 The Waits 8.30 A Radio Christmas Card 9.15 Just William 9.30 Sports Review of 1989 10.00 Newshour 11.00 The Queen 11.05 News 11.10 Prisoners of Conscience 11.15 Poems by Post 11.30 Multirack 1 12.00 Newsdesk 12.30am Megamix 1.01 The Good Book 1.30 Readings from the Good Book 1.45 James Galway 2.00 News 2.09 Review of the British Press 2.15 Network UK 2.30 Sports Review of 1989 3.00 News 3.09 News about Britain 3.15 Just William 3.30 John Peel 4.00 Newsdesk 4.30 Christmas Music from Europe 4.45 Nachrichten 4.55 German Features

RADIO 4

LW (s) Stereo on **FM**
5.55am Shipping Forecast **6.00** Prelude (s) **6.30** On Christmas Day in the Morning: News, weather and travel wrapped up by John Waite, incl **7.00, 8.00, 9.00** News
9.05 The House: A seasonal episode of the political drama by Christopher Lee. Starring Julian Glover, Timothy West, and Sarah Badel (s)
9.30 The Queen: The Queen speaks to the Commonwealth (s)
9.35 Morning Service: The Christmas Eucharist from the Cathedral Church of St Mary the Virgin, St Peter and St Cedd, Chelmsford
10.30 Down Your Way: Actor, writer and philosopher Peter Ustinov in Moscow (r)
11.20 Christmas on 4: Programme news
11.30 The Starlings: Written by Spike Milligan in 1954 and starring himself and "Goon" friends Peter Sellers and Harry Secombe
12.00 News; Something to Celebrate (new series): At the convent of Notre Dame, Dumbarton, five sisters prepare to celebrate 25 years in religious life (s)
12.25pm Smash of the Day: ITMA (Victory in Europe edition), starring Tommy Handley. The first of five popular programmes produced by the BBC Light Entertainment Dept., broadcast in May 1945 **12.58** Weather
1.00 The Queen speaks to the Commonwealth (s) (r)
1.05 News
1.10 A Cotswold Christmas: Laurie Lee introduces an anthology of seasonal poetry and prose. With David Goodland and Elizabeth Kelly (s)
1.40 The Archers (r) **1.55** Shipping Forecast
2.00 Moonlight and the Black Cat: The first of two sketches from the life and music of Claude Debussy, by David Buck. Starring Daniel Massey as Debussy, Mary Wimbush as Aunt Octavie and David Collings as Erik Satie (s) (r)
3.00 News; Treasure Island: Dramatization of Robert Louis Stevenson's novel, with Peter Jeffrey as Long John Silver (s) (see Choice)
4.30 Kaleidoscope Quartet: Paul Vaughan in conversation with three authors – Julian Barnes, Kate Saunders and Patrick Garland (s)
5.00 English, Where Next? David Crystal investigates the spread of the English language **5.50** Shipping Forecast (r) **5.55** Weather
6.00 News
6.05 Sharing Music: A report on a special music week for young disabled people, organised this summer by Richard Stilgoe, with the help of fellow musicians, and a sample of the resulting concert
6.30 News Quiz of the Year: Hosted by Barry Took, with Richard Ingrams and Alan Coren. The guests are John Wells and Kate Adie (s) (r)
7.00 News
7.05 The Archers
7.20 J Kingston Platt . . . recalls two intriguing episodes from his show business life (s)
7.45 A Tale of Two Cities: Dramatization of Charles Dickens's classic story. Part 3: Promises (s) (r)
8.15 The Tingle Factor: Jancis Robinson talks to Robin Ray about the music that makes her spine tingle (s) (r)
9.15 Kaleidoscope: Spying is Waiting. John Le Carré talks with Christopher Cook (r)
9.45 Two Stories by Georgina Hammick: Mad About the Boy, read by Patricia Hodge **9.59** Weather
10.00 News
10.05 The Choirmaster of Caen: Profile of choirmaster Robert Weddle who set up a boy's choir in Normandy (s) (r)
10.45 A Book at Bedtime: Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave, by Frederick Douglass. Abridged in five episodes by Roger Pine. Read by George Harris (1 of 5) (s)
11.00 The Secret of Jerusalem: Colin Samper examines the enduring popularity of the hymn Jerusalem (s) (r)
11.40 Meditation for Christmas Night: Three people – a mother, a priest and a nun – look back on their day (s)
12.00-12.30am News, incl **12.20** Weather **12.33** Shipping Forecast
FM as **LW** except:
1.55-2.00pm Programme News
5.50-5.55 Programme News

FREQUENCIES: **Radio 1:** 1053kHz/285m;1089kHz/276m;FM-97.6-99.8. (London area FM-104.8.) **Radio 2:** 693kHz/433m;909kHz/330m;FM-88-90.2. **Radio 3:** 1215kHz/ 247m; FM-90-92.4. **Radio 4:** 198kHz/1515m;FM-92.4-94.6. **LBC:** 1152kHz/261m; FM 97.3. **Capital:** 1548kHz/194m; FM 95.8. **Greater London Radio:** 1458kHz/206m; FM 94.9; **World Service:** MW 648kHz/463m.

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TO PROTECT IDENTITY, A MODEL HAS BEEN USED.

TELEVISION & RADIO Boxing Day

CHOICE

Television

John Nettles: as the detective battling against crime on Jersey (BBC1, 7.20pm)

● A feature length **Bergerac** (BBC1, 7.20pm) has the Jersey detective up against bank robbers, a revenge killing and a treacherous woman. There is no Christmas appearance this time by Liza Goddard but a script by the experienced Ian Kennedy Martin enlivens an often sluggish format.

● Jancis Robinson entices the reclusive food writer, Elizabeth David, to make a rare appearance before the cameras for **Matters of Taste** (Channel 4, 8.00pm). It is the climax of a profile which includes lavish tributes to a formidable woman who knew her stuff, could not bear pretence and wrote like a dream.

Films

● **Return of the Jedi (1983):** Luke Skywalker (Mark Hamill) and his chums return to do battle with the evil Darth Vader for the final part of the *Star Wars* trilogy. A potent mixture of fairy tale and special effects. ITV, 2.30pm.

● **The Red Shoes (1949):** The story of a young ballet dancer (Moira Shearer) torn between love and art, given glorious substance by Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger, in a dazzling study of colour and movement. Channel 4, 3.15pm.

● **Ruthless People (1986):** Raucous comedy starring Bette Midler as a kidnap victim whose husband (Danny DeVito) refuses to pay the ransom. ITV, 9.00pm.

● **The Name of the Rose (1986):** Sean Connery as a 14th century monk investigating strange deaths in an Italian abbey. Atmospheric, slighty ponderous version of Umberto Eco's novel by director Jean-Jacques Annaud who has since made *The Bear*. BBC1, 10.25pm.

Radio

● A Christmas Eve gem on Radio 3 was John Gielgud's readings from As We Were, the recollections of the humorous writer E.F. Benson (remember *Mapp and Lucia*?). Gielgud's personal delight in rediscovering Benson's gift for literary portraiture is a joyful bonus in the second of his readings from *As We Were* (Radio 3, 7.05pm).

● Fight off post-prandial torpor by listening to **Masterbrain** (Radio 4, 6.30pm), with this year's *Brain of Britain* and *Mastermind* winners and runners-up in cerebral combat.

● Equally good for flagging grey matter and guaranteed to speed up the heart beat is **Rogue Male** (Radio 4, 3.00pm). Household's thriller with the Buchan touch.

BBC 1

7.00 Fireman Sam Christmas Special (r) **7.25 Playbus** includes a visit a children's ward at St George's Hospital. Tooting **7.45 Mortimworms on Stage 8.10 The Pink Panther Show**

8.30 A Muppet Family Christmas 9.20 A Claymation Christmas Celebration. Animated characters sing Christmas songs

9.45 Smash Hits Poll Winners' Party. Phillip Schofield presents the winners of the 1989 pop music Smash Hits Poll, recorded at London's Docklands. Among the guests appearing are Bros, Jason Donovan, Kylie Minogue, Soul II Soul, Neneh Cherry, Big Fun, Transvision Vamp, New Kids on the Block, Sonia and Martika (r)

11.10 Film: Scrooge (1970) starring Albert Finney, Alec Guinness, Edith Evans and Kenneth More. Musical adaptation of the Charles Dickens novel about the miserly Ebenezer Scrooge who has nothing but contempt for the season of good will and festivies around him, until the Ghosts of Christmases Past, Present and Future pay him a visit. Directed by Ronald Neame. (Ceefax)

1.00 News with Chris Lowe. Weather

1.05 The Red Arrows – 25 Years. A special silver jubilee celebration of the Royal Air Force's aerobatic team

2.00 Film: A Bridge Too Far (1977) starring Laurence Oliver, Sean Connery, Elliott Gould, Michael Caine, Gene Hackman, Robert Redford, Ryan O'Neal, Anthony Hopkins and James Caan. Second World War epic about the Battle of Arnhem in September 1944 a crucial Allied operation to capture a strategic line of six Dutch bridges. Directed by Richard Attenborough. (Ceefax)

4.50 Final Score presented by Ralph Dellor

5.05 News with Chris Lowe. Weather

5.15 Jim'll Fix It for Christmas. Jimmy Savile fixes it for a few Christmas dreams to come true, including those of Kitty who wanted to be a chorister like her brother and Diana who wished she could be Little Red Riding Hood

6.00 The Paul Daniels Magic Show. With guests Little and Large, and *Neighbours*'s Anne Charleston and Ian Smith.

6.50 EastEnders. Ian and Cindy are cleaning the café after its closure by the Environmental Health Officer when Cindy begins to get stomach pains. (Ceefax)

7.20 Bergerac: Second Time Around. (Ceefax) (see Choice)

9.00 Birds of a Feather. Tracey decides to call Christmas off when her son tells her that he's not coming home from boarding school, but when two cruise tickets turn up in the Christmas post. Sharon has an idea. Starring Pauline Quirke, Linda Robson and Lesley Joseph

9.30 Blackadder's Christmas Carol. The tables are turned when a kind-hearted Ebenezer Blackadder threatens the miserly traditions of his ancestors, who think he's gone far enough with his foolish generosity and decide to pay him a visit to remind him of how to save rather than spend. Starring Rowan Atkinson, Robbie Coltrane, Miranda Richardson, Stephen Fry, Hugh Laurie and Tony Robinson (r). (Ceefax)

10.15 News with Chris Lowe. Weather

10.25 Film: The Name of the Rose (1986) starring Sean Connery, Christian Slater and F. Murray Abraham. (Ceefax) (see Choice)

12.30am Michael Feinstein in Concert. The pianist and singer, renowned for his performances of Gershwin, Berlin and other composers of American popular musicals, in concert earlier this year at London's Dominion Theatre (r)

1.20 Weather

ITV/LONDON

6.00 TV-am begins with two nature films; **7.00 Galaxy High.** Animated fun in space; **7.30 Benji, Zak and the Alien Prince; 8.00 Black Arrow.** Cartoon from New Zealand; **8.40 Wacaday** with Timmy Mallett

9.25 T-Bag's Christmas Carol. T-Bag tries to make people unhappy at Christmas

9.50 Film: Robin Hood (1973). Disney's feature-length animated version of the story of Robin and his merry men with all the characters "played" by animals. With the voices of Brian Bedford, Peter Ustinov, Terry-Thomas and Pat Buttram. Directed by Wolfgang Reitherman.

11.20 Film: Sinbad and the Eye of the Tiger (1977) starring Patrick Wayne and Taryn Power. Sinbad sails to Charok to seek the hand in marriage of Princess Farah. First he has to free the city from a spell cast by a wicked witch who wants her own son to become Caliph. Directed by Sam Wanamaker.

1.20 News and weather

1.30 Run the Gauntlet Christmas Special: The Mitsubishi Shogun Challenge. Celebrity action challenge game with team captains Alison Holloway and Ross Davidson being joined by Eddie Kidd, Sybil Ruscoe Jilly Johnson, Gail McKenna, David Wilkie, Curt Smith, Nigel Pivaro and Sally Jones

2.30 Film: Return of the Jedi (1983) (see Choice)

4.55 News, sport and weather

5.10 Film: Danny the Champion of the World (1988) starring Jeremy Irons, Samuel Irons, Robbie Coltrane and Cyril Cusack. A father and son's peaceful and happy existence is threatened by a sinister new lord of the manor. Directed by Gavin Millar.

7.00 Celebrity Wheel of Fortune. Nicky Campbell and Carol Smillie host a special festive edition of the game show

7.30 George and Mildred. Vintage sitcom starring Yootha Joyce and Brian Murphy (r)

8.00 The Bill: Powers of Exclusion. The Rev Marcus Ogun, a thuggish drug-dealer, is arrested. But charging him proves difficult. (Oracle)

8.30 Shelley: Cold Turkey. Shelley wants to take a bottle to bed and hide from the horrors of Christmas hype. But his peace is ruined by Phil, who is intent on being festive, and Graham, who is emotionally disturbed

9.00 Film: Ruthless People (1986) (see Choice)

10.45 News and weather

11.00 Film: The Outlaw Josey Wales (1976) starring Clint Eastwood. Josey Wales' wife and child are murdered by Captain Terrill's Union Raiders during the Civil War. When the war ends he tracks them down to seek revenge. Directed by Clint Eastwood

1.30am Film: Escape from New York (1981) starring Kurt Russell, Lee Van Cleef and Ernest Borgnine. The year is 1997. Manhattan Island has been turned into a huge maximum security prison. The President of the US is forced to bale out of his plane over the prison and is taken hostage by a gang of convicts. Another prisoner is offered his freedom if he can get the President out alive. Directed by John Carpenter.

3.20 Film: Give My Regards to Broad Street (1984) starring Paul McCartney, Ringo Starr, Bryan Brown and Tracey Ullman. McCartney's tale of a famous rock star who searches London for the priceless master tapes of his new album which he believes have been stolen. Directed by Peter Webb.

5.20 Cartoon Time

5.50 ITN Morning News. Ends at **6.00**

BBC 2

6.25 The Third Man (b/w) starring Michael Rennie (r) **8.50 Buck Rogers** (b/w) **9.10 Flash Gordon Conquers the Universe** (b/w)

9.30 Film: Swing Time (1936 b/w) starring Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers. Romantic musical directed by George Stevens. (Ceefax)

11.10 The Ryder Cup Retained. A look back at this autumn's Ryder Cup golf tournament (r)

12.10 A Year in the Life. In 1969, Paul Watson's award-winning documentary series followed people around for a year. Twenty years later, the programme returns in a new series to talk to the people who were originally featured. Today Home Secretary, David Waddington, MP, reflects on how his life has changed. **1.00 Pigeon Street** (r)

1.15 Boop-Oop-A-Doop! The story of one of animation's sauciest little characters, Betty Boop, who was created in 1930 by Max and Dave Fleischer (r)

2.30 Film: The Pagnol Trilogy – Fanny (1932 b/w) starring Orane Demazis, Raimu and Fernand Charpin. Part two of the Pagnol trilogy, and Fanny, deserted by her voyaging lover, is persuaded by his father to marry an old admirer, so that the child she is expecting will have a father. Directed by Marc Allegret.

4.30 Wodehouse on Broadway: A Musical Memoir. Recorded at the Theatre Royal in Plymouth, this is a dramatized autobiographical account of how PG Wodehouse earned his living as a Broadway songwriter between 1915 and 1926

6.00 Film: The Black Stallion (1979) starring Mickey Rooney, Kelly Reno and Teri Garr. A young boy and an Arabian stallion are the only survivors of a shipwreck on a deserted island off the coast of north Africa. He tames the horse and, when they are rescued, brings it back home with him. Directed by Carroll Ballard

7.55 The Love for Three Oranges. Opera North's production of Prokofiev's fairy tale is based on an 18th-century Italian comedy by Carlo Gozzi, about a hypochondriac prince who, under a witch's curse, becomes infatuated with three oranges. Recorded at the Grand Theatre in Leeds

9.55 Monsieur Eiffel's Tower. The story of Paris's celebrated landmark (r)

10.25 Yes, Minister. Rumours of a cabinet re-shuffle disturb Jim's Christmas (r). (Ceefax)

11.25 Film: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly (1967) starring Clint Eastwood, Lee Van Cleef and Eli Wallach. Western drama about three gunmen who go in search of a box containing 200,000 dollars. Directed by Sergio Leone. (Ceefax)

2.00am Weather

CHANNEL 4

6.00 Hallelujah! (r) **6.30 Christmas Box** (r) **7.00 Dennis 7.25 The Gnomes' Great Adventure 8.50 Countdown Masters**

9.00 Channel 4 Racing: The Morning Line. A preview of the traditional Boxing Day race meetings

9.25 Sesame Street 10.25 The Adventures of Tintin 10.35 The Batman (b/w)

10.55 Film: Road to Singapore (1940 b/w) starring Bing Crosby, Bob Hope and Dorothy Lamour. In this first film in the Road series a millionaire's playboy son and his wise-cracking best friend bluff their way out of one awkward situation after another, leading them to the conclusion that women are too much trouble and best forgotten. However, their good intentions come to nothing when they meet a beautiful singer and become rivals for her affections. Directed by Victor Schertzinger.

12.30 Channel 4 Racing from Kempton Park. The 12.45, 1.15, 1.45, 2.20 and 2.50 races

3.15 Film: The Red Shoes (1948). (Oracle) (see Choice)

5.40 News summary and weather

5.45 Swan Lake. The Royal Festival Ballet performs one of the best-loved ballets in the classical repertoire, the story of the love between Siegfried and Odette. Peter Schaufuss and Evelyn Hart dance the leading roles

8.00 Matters of Taste - Elizabeth David (see Choice)

9.00 The Fabulous Singlettes. Naomi, Alison and Lisa are the Fabulous Singlettes, who were one of the successes of this year's Edinburgh Festival with their lively renditions of classic 1960s sounds

10.00 Short and Curlies: Unusual Ground Floor Conversion. A short film about a young writer who moves into a flat, where he hopes to find the peace and inspiration needed to complete his next book. But has he really chosen the ideal setting? With Adrian Dunbar, Roy Kinnear and Danny Schiller

10.15 Rotten Apples, by Niall Leonard, starring Ian McElhinney and B J Hogg. An unusual comedy set in an RUC station in Northern Ireland.

11.15 Film: The Prince and the Showgirl (1957) starring Marilyn Monroe and Laurence Olivier. The Prince Regent of Carpathia travels to London for the coronation of King George V. While there he meets a beautiful American chorus girl who, much to his annoyance, falls in love with him. Directed by Laurence Olivier.

1.25am Film: At the Circus (1939 b/w) starring the Marx Brothers. Lawyer J. Cheever Loophole is asked to help a circus owner find the money he needs to fend off a loan shark. Directed by Edward Buzzell. Ends at **3.00**

SATELLITE

SKY ONE

5.00am Sky News **5.30** Flitter's Cove **6.00** DJ Kat Show **8.30** Panel Pot Pourri **10.00** The Sullivans **10.30** Fantasy Island **11.30** What a Country **12.00** Another World **12.55pm** General Hospital **1.50** As the World Turns **2.45** Loving **3.45** Dennis **4.00** Countdown **5.00** Sky Star Search **6.00** The New Price is Right **6.30** Sale of the Century **7.00** Frank Bough's World **8.00** Film: The Baron and the Kid **10.00** The Funniest Joke I Ever Heard **11.00** Sky World News Tonight **11.30** Film: Who is Harry Kellerman and Why is he Saying those Terrible Things about Me?

SKY NEWS

News on the hour. **5.00am** Sky News **5.30** The FBI **6.30** BMTV Good Health **7.30** Beyond 2000 **8.30** Royal Review '89 **9.30** The FBI **10.30** BMTV Good Health **11.30** Our World **12.30pm** NBC Today **1.30** News Review '89 **2.30** NBC Today **3.30** BMTV Good Health **4.30** Our World **5.00** Live at Five **5.30** Royal Review '89 **6.30** Beyond 2000 **7.30** The Reporters **8.30** The FBI **9.30** The Best of Target **10.30** The Reporters **11.30** NBC News **12.30am** The FBI **1.30** Royal Review '89 **2.30** NBC News **3.30** The Reporters **4.30** Target

SKY MOVIES

8.05am My Little Pony – The Movie (1986): The Little Ponies fend off an attack **8.00 Watership Down** (1978): Animated adaptation of Richard Adams's novel **10.00 Mr Mom** (1983): Role-reversal comedy, starring Michael Keaton and Teri Garr **12.00 Pirates** (1986): Walter Matthau as a peg-legged British pirate **2.00pm The Wind in the Willows** (1983): Animated tale of Kenneth Grahame's novel **4.00 Biggles** (1986): A First World War hero and an American fast-food entrepreneur battle through the trenches of time **5.30 Buster: The Inside Story: The making of the film *Buster*** **6.00 Little Shop of Horrors** (1986): Story of a man-eating plant **7.40 Entertainment Tonight** **8.00 Dirty Dancing** (1987): Starring Patrick Swayze and Jennifer Grey **10.00 The Year of the Dragon** (1985): Mickey Rourke as a New York cop **12.05am The Fly** (1986): Starring Jeff Goldblum **1.40 The Hitchhiker:** Tonight's episode is *Night Shift* **2.10 9½ Weeks:** Starring Mickey Rourke and Kim Basinger **4.00 Stakeout:** With Richard Dreyfuss and Emilio Estevez. Ends at **5.55am**

EUROSPORT

5.00am Sky News **5.30** Flitter's Cove **6.00** DJ Kat Show **8.30** Menu **9.00** Tennis: Australia v Yugoslavia/Holland **12.00** Male Athletes of the Year **1.00pm** An Invitation to Goodwood **2.00** Cricket: Australia v West Indies **3.00** 16 Days of Glory: 1988 Winter Olympics in Calgary, Canada **5.00** The World at Their Feet: 1970 World Cup **6.00** Hopman Cup Tennis **9.00** Motor Sports **10.00** Paris-Dakar Rally **10.15** WWF Superstars of Wrestling '88 **11.15** Marathon Story **12.15am** Paris-Dakar Rally

MTV

5.30am Club MTV **8.00** Kristiane Backer **9.30** Rewind '88 **11.00** Remote Control **2.00pm** Summer Revisited **3.00** 3 from '87 **3.15** Marcel Vanthilt **4.00** Aerosmith **4.30** Guns 'n' Roses **5.00** Remote Control **5.30** Club MTV **6.00** Ray Cokes **8.00** Yo! **8.30** Top 20 **10.00** Rewind '81 **11.30** Maiken Wexo **1.00am** Videos

● Full information on satellite TV programmes is available in the weekly magazine, TV Guide.

VARIATIONS

BBC1 WALES: **1.30am–1.35** News and weather SCOTLAND: **1.05pm–2.00** The Garden Party

ANGLIA As London except: **7.00pm** Emmerdale **7.30–8.00** Jimmy's at Christmas.

BORDER As London except: No Variations.

CENTRAL As London except: **7.00pm** Emmerdale **7.30–8.00** Jimmy's at Christmas.

CHANNEL As London except: No Variation.

GRAMPIAN As London except: No Variation.

GRANADA As London except: No Variation.

HTV WEST As London except: No Variation.

HTV WALES As HTV West except: No Variation.

S4C Starts: **5.00am** Early Morning **9.25** Sesame Street **10.25** The Batman' **11.00** Desert Orchid **12.00** Pobol Y Cwm **12.30pm** Racing from Kempton **3.10** The Little Sweep **4.10** Fitzbelsimo **4.30** Robin Ap Crosco **6.00** News **6.10** Hafoc **6.35** Panorama **7.10** Lle Triga'r Caneri **8.00** Dinas **8.30** Film Nadolig: Deryn Dolig **10.00** 4 Play: Shalom Joan Collins **11.15** Film: The Prince and the Showgirl (Laurence Olivier, Marilyn Monroe) **1.25am** Film: At the Circus" (Marx Brothers) **3.00** Closedown.

RTE 1 Starts: **9.15am** Nonni **10.05** Film: Abbott and Costello in Society" **11.15** Film: Follow A Star (Norman Wisdom, June Lawdick) **1.00pm** News **1.05** Film: Mary Poppins (Julie Andrews, Dick Van Dyke) **3.30** A Christmas Carol **3.55** The Seven Wonders of the Circus World **4.45** The Gardens of Mount Congreve **5.45** News **6.00** The Angelus **6.01** Great Expectations **7.00** Rapid Roulette **7.30** Play The Game **8.00** Daniel O'Donnell Show **8.45** News **8.55** Film: Legal Eagles (Robert Redford, Debra Winger) **11.35** Opera Highlights **12.25am** News **12.35** Close

NETWORK 2 Starts: **9.00am** Bosco **9.30** Fireman Sam **10.00** Frosty The Snowman **10.30** T-Bag's Christmas Cracker **11.00** 2FM Television Show **1.00pm** Racing From Leopardstown **3.25** Up Sraid Eoin – The Story of the Dingle Wren **3.50** Film: The Yearling (Gregory Peck, Jane Wyman) **6.00** To the Waters and the Wild Quiz **6.30** Home and Away **6.55** Nuacht **7.00** Glaoraoi **7.30** Film: The Marx Brothers Go West **9.00** Empty Beat **9.30** Carroll's RTE Promo **10.30** Blue Blood **11.30** Films Against All Odds **1.35am** Closedown.

RADIO 1

FM Stereo and **MW** News on the half-hour from **5.30am** until **8.30pm**, then at **10.00**

5.00am Jakki Brambles **7.30** Nicky Campbell's Breakfast Show

10.00 Simon Bates **12.30pm** Newsbeat **12.35** Gary Davies **4.00** Mark Goodier's Instant Jukebox **6.30** McCartney on McCartney **7.30** The Christmas Concerts: Led Zeppelin **8.30** John Peel's Festive 50 **10.30** Victor Lewis Smith's Christmas Message

11.00-2.00am Bob Harris

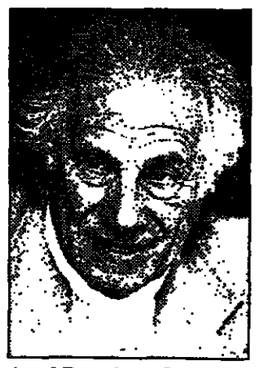
RADIO 2

FM Stereo

4.00am Steve Madden **7.00** Chris Stuart **9.05** Ken Bruce **11.00** Katie Boyle **1.05pm** The News Huddlines Revue of the Eighties **2.00** Adrian Love at the Circus **4.00** Gerald Harper **5.30** The Announcers' Challenge II **6.00** Mel Torme **7.00** The Radio Orchestra Show **9.00** When Housewives Stuffed The Bird **10.00** McKay The New **10.30** I'm Sorry I Haven't A Clue **11.00** Hits of the Decade **1.00-4.00am** Nightride

MW as above except: **2.00-5.30pm** Sport on 2

RADIO 3



Antal Dorati: conducts The Sleeping Beauty (R3, 9.35am)

6.55am Weather and News Headlines

7.00 Christmas Cantata: Bach (Selig ist der Mann, BWV 57: Concentus Musicus, Vienna, under Harnoncourt; Tölzer Knabenchor)

7.30 News

7.35 Morning Concert: Brahms (Academic Festival Overture: LPO under Adrian Boult); Haydn (Concerto in D, H X VII 2: Lausanne CO under Nordan, with Anne Queffelec, piano); Tchaikovsky (Legend: USSR Russian Chorus under Sveshnikov); Arensky (Variations on a Theme by Tchaikovsky: LSO under John Barbirolli)

8.30 News

8.35 Composers of the Week: Schubert. Symphony No 2 in B flat (Berlin PO under Karl Böhm); Offertorium, D 963 (Bavarian RSO and Chorus under Sawallisch); Introduction and Variations on "Trockne Blumen" (James Galway, flute, Philip Moll, piano)

9.35 Tchaikovsky – The Sleeping Beauty: The collaboration between Tchaikovsky and the choreographer Petipa to make the ballet Sleeping Beauty is described by John Warrack, incl **9.55** Amsterdam Concertgebouw Orchestra under Antal Dorati performs The Sleeping Beauty

1.00 News

1.05 For a Later Age: Ralph Kirshbaum, cello, Peter Frankl, piano, perform Beethoven (Sonatas – in G minor, Op 5 No 2; in D, Op 102 No 2); Beethoven (Variations on "Bei Männern, welche Liebe fühlen" "The Magic Flute"; Sonata, Op 69), incl **1.55** Interval Reading

2.45 Tasting Notes: Graham Sheffield introduces six songs, commissioned by wine merchant Robin Yapp, from his customers – Harrison Birtwistle, Peter Maxwell-Davies, Colin Matthews, Dominic Muldowney, John Woolrich and James Ellis. Performed by Linda Hirst, mezzo, Geoffrey Dolton, baritone, and John Lenehan, piano

3.10 Haydn – The Late Masses: Choir and Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment under Simon Preston; Gainsborough String Quartet, perform Haydn (Sinfonia concertante in B flat; String Quartet in G, Op 77 No 1); Haydn (Missa in angustiis "Nelson Mass"), incl **3.55** Interval Reading

4.50 Brass at the Colston Hall: Presented by Bram Gay. The Sun Life Band under Roy Newsome performs Cyril Jenkins (Overture, Coriolanus, 1913); Adrian Beaumont (Toccata, Op 35); George Lloyd (In memoriam "Royal Parks"); Derek Bourgeois (Concerto No 1)

5.30 Forgotten Reputations?: John Amis talks with former players and colleagues of Arnold Goldsbrough (1892-1964) who broadcast regularly on the Third Programme with the Goldsbrough Orchestra, which later became the English Chamber Orchestra, incl **6.00** Records of Arnold Goldsbrough, including works by Purcell and Handel, and then-unknown works by Telemann and Vivaldi

7.00 News

7.05 Sir John Gielgud reads from *As You Were*. Part 2: Mr Gladstone's Cottage (see Choice)

7.20 Virgil Thomson (1896-1989): A sequence of musical portraits, including Portraits of Picasso and Copland, and a Portrait of the Artist as Young Man

7.55 The Love for Three Oranges: Opera North's production by Richard Jones of Prokofiev's opera

9.55 Prokofiev, the Pianist: The composer playing some of his own compositions

10.15 The Ring and the Book, by Robert Browning. Read by John Westbrook (r)

11.00 Composers of the Week: Fauré (r)

12.00 News **12.05am** Close

WORLD SERVICE

5.35am News in German; Headlines in English and French **5.47** Presenter's Choice **5.55** Weather and Travel News **6.00** Newsdesk **6.30** Londres Matin **7.00** World News **7.09** 24 Hours; News Summary **7.30** Just William **7.45** Network UK **8.00** World News **8.09** Words of Faith **8.15** Tech Talk **8.30** The Atlantic Story **9.00** World News **9.09** Review of the British Press **9.15** Death, Fire and Life **10.01** People and Plagues **10.30** Sports Review of 1989 **11.00** World News **11.09** News about Britain **11.15** Waveguide **11.25** Book Choice **11.30** Londres Midi **12.00** Newsreel **12.15pm** Multitrack 1 **12.45** Just William **1.00** World News **1.09** 24 Hours; News Summary **1.30** Network UK **1.45** A Taste of Soul **2.00** World News: Outlook **2.30** Off the Shelf: The Iron Staircase **2.45** The Art of James Galway **3.00** Newsreel **3.15** A Jolly Good Show **4.00** World News **4.09** News about Britain **4.15** BBC English **4.30** Nachrichten **4.40** German Feature **5.00** World News **5.08** Prisoners of Conscience **5.15** Presenter's Choice **5.30** Londres Soir **6.14** News Headlines in English **6.15** BBC English **6.30** Nachrichten **6.40** German Feature **7.54** Nachrichten **8.00** World News **8.09** The World Today **8.25** Words of Faith **8.30** Meridian **9.01** Sports Roundup **9.15** Business Matters **9.30** Megamix **10.00** Newshour **11.00** World News **11.05** Prisoners of Conscience **11.10** Financial News **1.30am** Against the Grain **1.45** Country Style **2.00** World News **2.09** Review of the British Press **2.15** Tech Talk **2.30** The Atlantic Story **3.00** World News **3.09** News about Britain **3.15** The World Today **3.30** Ned Sherrin's Counterpoint **4.00** Newsdesk **4.30** The World Today **4.45** Nachrichten und Presseschau

RADIO 4

LW (s) Stereo on **FM**

5.55am Shipping Forecast **6.00** News Briefing; Weather **6.10** Prelude (s) **6.50** Prayer for the Day (s) **6.55** Weather **7.00** News **7.10** Cold Turkey: A Boxing Day breakfast, served up by Bernard Falk and Sally Jones **8.57** Weather

9.00 News

9.05 Punters: Susan Marling with flashbacks and updates on the year's reports

9.35 Wilko's Weekly (new series): Tony Wilkinson reports from behind the scenes of a quartet of local papers. Part 1: *Shetland Times* (s)

10.00 News; Down the River Tay: Cliff Morgan travels the Tay, meeting the people who live and work along its banks. Today, he visits Scone Palace where the Kings of Scotland were crowned (s) (r)

10.45 Daily Service (s)

11.00 News; Citizens (s)

11.25 In the Psychiatrist's Chair: Writer and broadcaster Ludovic Kennedy talks to Dr Anthony Clare (r)

12.00 News; Something to Celebrate: Graham Buckley celebrates the end of his four-year print apprenticeship (s)

12.25pm Smash of the Day: The Men from the Ministry. With Wilfrid Hyde White, and Richard Murdoch in The Big Rocket. First broadcast in 1962 **12.55** Weather

1.00 News

1.10 The Announcers Challenge II: Michael Aspel challenges a selection of radio announcers on the mysteries of network presentation. From Radio 2: James Alexander Gordon and Steve Madden. From Radio 3: Peter Barker and Susan Sharpe. From Radio 4: Laurie Macmillan and Charlotte Green

1.40 The Archers (r) **1.55** Shipping Forecast

2.00 News; Moonlight and the Black Cat: Second of two sketches by David Buck on the life of Claude Debussy (s) (r)

2.50 The Afternoon of the Faun: Claude Debussy's famous Prélude, composed in 1894, accompanied Vaslav Nijinsky's ballet and Stéphane Mallarmé's poem, L'Après-midi d'un Faune (s) (r)

3.00 News: Rogue Male: Dramatization of Geoffrey Household's novel by Frederick Bradnum (s)

4.30 Kaleidoscope Quartet: Paul Allen with actors Jane Lapotaire and Ian McDiarmid, and playwright Timberlake Wertenbaker (s)

5.00 News

5.05 Daphne: A portrait in her own words of Dame Daphne du Maurier who died earlier this year **5.50** Shipping Forecast **5.55** Weather

6.00 Six O'Clock News

6.15 Uncle Mort's North Country, by Peter Tinniswood (s) (r)

6.30 Masterbrain: Chaired by Robert Robinson. A special invitation challenge match featuring the winners and runners-up of the 1989 *Brain of Britain* and *Mastermind* contests (s) (see Choice)

7.00 News **7.05** The Archers

7.20 J. Kingston Platt . . . tells another intriguing episode in his long and varied career (s)

7.45 A Tale of Two Cities, by Charles Dickens (4 of 7) (s) (r)

8.45 The Tingle Factor: Michael Bentine talks to Robin Ray (s) (r)

9.15 Kaleidoscope: Andrew Lloyd Webber talks to Mark Steyn (s) (r)

9.45 Two stories by Georgina Hammic: Noble Rot **9.59** Weather

10.00 News

10.05 In Royal Company: The story of the establishment and life of Her Majesty's Chapel Royal, St James's Palace, told by the Gentleman and Children of the Chapel, accompanied by the music of Purcell, Byrd, Handel and Tallis (s)

10.45 A Book At Bedtime: Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave, by Frederick Douglass (2 of 5) (s)

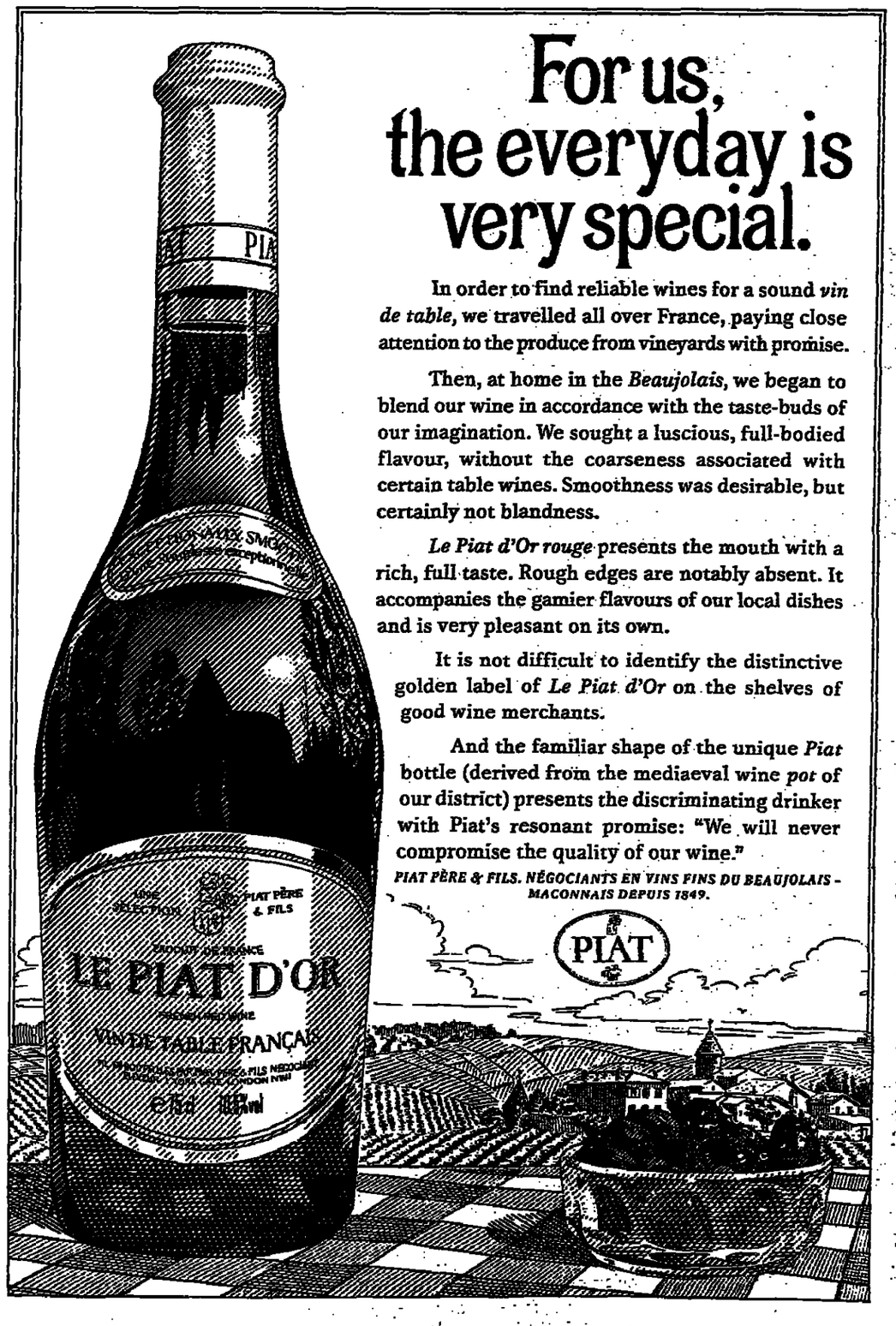
11.00 Britannia – The Film: Second of an eight-part history of British cinema, narrated by Christopher Fraying (s) (r)

11.30 The Natural History of the Gnome with Peter France (r)

12.00-12.30am News; incl **12.20** Weather **12.33** Shipping Forecast

FM as **LW** except: **1.55-2.00pm** Listening Corner (s) **5.50-5.55** Programme News

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1: 1053kHz/285m;1089kHz/275m;FM-97.6-99.8. (London area FM-104.8.) Radio 2: 693kHz/433m;909kHz/330m;FM-88-90.2. Radio 3: 1215kHz/ 247m; FM-90-92.4. Radio 4: 198kHz/1515m;FM-92.4-94.6. LBC: 1152kHz/261m; FM 97.3. Capital: 1548kHz/194m; FM 95.8. Greater London Radio: 1458kHz/206m; FM 94.9; World Service: MW 648kHz/463m.



BOOKS

PAPERBACKS

Writing on the bottom line

Joseph Connolly weighs up the writers' bibles

THE WRITERS' AND ARTISTS' YEARBOOK, 1990
A. & C. Black, £6.95
THE WRITER'S HANDBOOK, 1990
Edited by Barry Turner
Macmillan, £6.95

I am old enough to remember when *The Writers' and Artists' Yearbook* was published in hardback only, with a shiny red jacket — years before any upstart would have dreamed of trying to muscle in on the territory; now it comes as a fat paperback, as does its major rival, *The Writer's Handbook* — which usually contrives to be fatter while containing fewer pages.

What everyone needs to know, of course, is quite simply which is the better book, but the answer is not immediately obvious. The selection process is made easier if one happens to be an artist, designer, photographer or composer, because while *The Writers' and Artists'* explores these fields in depth, the *Writer's Handbook* declines to touch them with a bargepole. It may be concluded from this that if one is a mere writer, the Macmillan publication is the better bet, but this is not the case. The wealth of international book, magazine and newspaper information in *The Writers' and Artists'* is staggering: it is near impossible to think of anything one might wish to know that the (anonymous) editors have failed to include. Most of the material that matters is covered also, of course, by *The Writer's Handbook*, so how does the information provided compare?

Top marks for layout go to Macmillan, the newsy little bits about publishers and newspapers making the book a browser's dream. I particularly liked their summation of *The Bookseller* ("Essential guide to what is being done to whom").

Both books have kept up very well, with the takeovers, mergers and closures that have recently affected the structure of publishing, being minutely detailed.

But I imagine that most writers who use these books refer more to the newspaper and magazine section than any other (treated separately in the handbook, to no great purpose), and here the sheer accuracy and up-to-dateness of *The Writers' and Artists'* soars ahead, both in terms of accuracy and quantity of information.

Would-be contributors would be led astray by the extraordinary advice given in a chapter of *The Writer's Handbook* entitled "The Economics of Freelancing": that the writer should, on agreeing to write a piece, always insist on part of the fee "up front", and demand a written agreement; further, that the full fee should be paid in the event of a piece not fulfilling the terms of the commission. Any writer reading this will smile ruefully, while editors will be falling off their chairs in a fit of merriment.

I like the chatty style of the *Handbook*, but on balance, the good old *Writers' and Artists'* is still tops — but how about a snappier title? Let's hear it for a book called WandA.

Little women growing

FICTION

Nicola Beauman

ZOE
By Geraldine Jewsbury
Virago, £8.99

Geraldine Jewsbury, whose literary idol was George Sand, backdated this, her first novel, so that it would be less shocking to the Victorian reader. Her close friend Jane Carlyle thought that "they must not publish it — decency forbids!" and *Zoe* (1845) did, indeed, become a *succès scandale* and a key text in the history of feminist literature.

Set in the 18th century, it describes the motherless Zoe, whose uncle realizes that "she does not seem to be cut out for a housewife . . . I will see what I can make of her as a scholar". When she marries a much older friend of her father's (in order to "get free") her intelligence and wit are only a hindrance to a well-ordered life of motherhood and wifeliness.

Interwoven with her story is that of Everhard, whose mother "never showed him any tenderness . . . his being destined for holy orders, which put him beyond the need of having his worldly prosperity schemed for, had also removed him beyond the sphere of her sympathies". The focus of the novel is upon Everhard and Zoe's doomed love for one another. They become close friends, spending hours in religious debate, before, on the very steps of the altar, "Zoe's burning arms were round his neck, and her long hair fell like a veil over him".

Everhard gives up the priesthood and lives in poverty, while Zoe, unaware of what has happened to him, continues to travel, entertain and live in luxury; neither finds happiness.

The messages are subtly but clearly conveyed: a mismanaged childhood leads to unfulfilled adulthood; religion and worldly love are irreconcilable; and the education of women must be better handled if it is not to cause later conflict. This last theme is one that recurs throughout Geraldine Jewsbury's work. She was optimist enough to believe that "we are touching on better days, when women will have a genuine, normal life of their own to lead."

It was not for nothing that Virginia Woolf called her review "Geraldine and Jane": the two women had a tempestuous and fascinating friendship about which I long to read more. Geraldine's letters survived; perhaps these, too, could soon be re-printed?

Snob appeal

CRIME

Edward Buscombe

MYSTERY MILE
By Margery Allingham
THE WOODEN OVERCOAT
By Pamela Branch
THE CASE OF THE GILDED FLY
By Edmund Crispin
HAMLET, REVENGE!
By Michael Innes
WALL OF EYES
By Margaret Miller
THE MAN IN THE QUEUE
By Josephine Tey
All published by Penguin, £3.99

Perhaps the only thing increasing faster than the output of crime fiction is the crime rate itself. Alert publishers have woken up to the fact that the public's hunger for old crime novels exceeds the current supply, and are ransacking their backlists for reprints. Penguin are the latest to get in on the act, and have reissued a batch of six titles in the familiar old Penguin Crime jackets with the broad green band at top and bottom.

Four of them are examples of a particularly English strain of the genre which flourished between the wars, and which died out in the 50s. The books, by Allingham, Tey, Crispin and Innes, all feature the early appearance by a detective who went on to star in a long-running series: respectively Albert Campion, Alan Grant, Gervase Fen and John Appleby. Each is either a gifted amateur or an unprobably cultivated policeman, able to move easily between the world of country houses, Oxford high tables and London theatre.

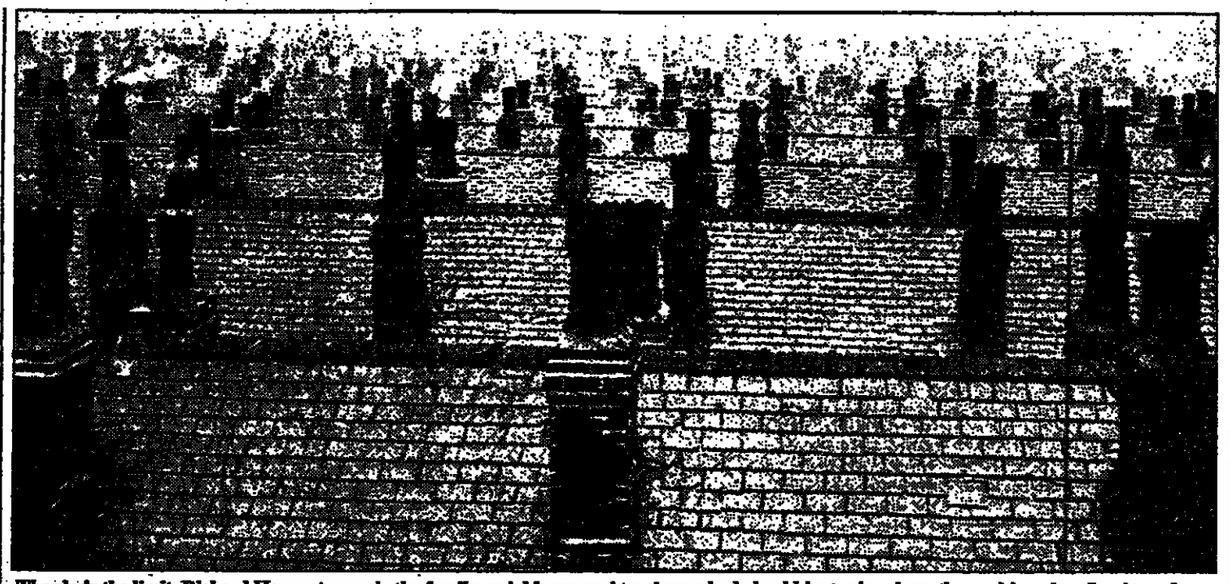
The milieu of these books seems so distant from our own that its social exclusivity — which once led Robin Watson to accuse their authors of committing "snobbery with violence" — now provokes more amusement than offence, leaving us free to admire the facility and invention of the writing. Even the casual racism has a laughably dated feel, as when Gervase Fen, Oxford don and amateur sleuth, remarks of a suspect that since he had been in South America, "I thought it just possible that he might be remotely connected with the industry for which that part of the globe is notorious — procuring". Josephine Tey, in describing a murder committed with a dagger, dredges up an ancient prejudice which dates back at least as far as Shakespeare:

"No thorough Englishman used such a weapon. If he used steel at all he took a razor and cut a person's throat. But his habitual weapon was the cudgeon, and, failing that, a gun. This was a crime that had been planned with an ingenuity and executed with a subtlety that was foreign to an Englishman's habit of thought. The very femininity of it proclaimed the dago . . ."

Margaret Miller was married to the thriller writer Ross Macdonald, and is a fine novelist in her own right. As one would expect from a North American author, the social tone is more democratic. *Wall of Eyes*, set in Canada and published during the early 1940s, has a murderer who leads a double life, moving easily between a rich but repressed household of bitter neurotics and a sleazy world of cheap clubs and bars. It's a bleak but brilliantly told tale.

The Wooden Overcoat by Pamela Branch is a strange piece of work, a bizarre story about an exclusive club whose members have all been acquitted of murder, and the household of Bohemians who live next door. It's a kind of black farce, also very English in its way, not unlike the famous Ealing film *The Ladykillers*.

More titles are promised in this welcome initiative. But Penguin might take a little more care. The title verso page of *The Man in the Queue* says it was first published in 1953. A little detective work of my own established that it was 1929.



The sky's the limit: Richard Hoggart records the family, neighbours and teachers who helped him to rise above the working-class Leeds rooftops

Escape of a working-class hero

John Campbell

A LOCAL HABITATION: Life and Times: 1918-1940
By Richard Hoggart
Oxford, £5.99

My 1960s edition of *The Uses of Literacy* — the brilliant and seminal study of working-class life with which Richard Hoggart made his name 30 years ago — has a detail of an L.S. Lowry painting on the cover. Now in *A Local Habitation* Hoggart has written a luminous and sensitive memoir of his own upbringing as a working-class boy in Leeds between the wars, the personal experience on which he generalized for *The Uses of Literacy*, and this, too, the publishers have chosen to adorn with Lowry. But Lowry's depersonalized matchstick men are quite wrong for Hoggart: they represent an entirely different view of working-class life.

Hoggart is all about individuality, about quirks of character and questions of identity. Even at his most sociological he is concerned with the infinitely subtle gradations within the crude categories of class. In *A Local Habitation* he is explicitly recalling his own family, neighbours and teachers in all their human oddity. His shrewdly affectionate, respectfully analytic tone resembles not the bleakness of Lowry but much more the penetrating empathy of another Leeds boy, Alan Bennett.

The first half of the book is dominated by the alarming figure of Aunt Ethel — the elder of two aunts who, with his grandmother and a female cousin, brought up the young Hoggart from the age of eight, when his mother died: he never knew his father. Aunt Ethel was a furious virago, militantly respectable and violently quarrelsome on the least pretext — quite unlike the younger, gentler and altogether more easy-going Aunt Annie. Aunt Ethel clearly made the tiny overcrowded house in Newport Street a living hell. Yet at this distance Hoggart's concern is to try to understand what made her as she was, to remember the rare glimpses of kindness and the sacrifices she made to give her clever nephew the chance to escape the narrow horizons of Hunslet.

The second half likewise records his debt to some of the others who helped him: his elementary school headmaster, who somehow arranged for him to get to grammar school even though he failed the 11-plus; the admirable Miss Jubb, the Board of Guardians' visitor who persuaded his grandmother that to stay on an extra year in the sixth form might enable him to be "a doctor or a parson"; an astonishingly supportive director of education, who found him £30 to go on a month's cycling trip to Germany.

At one level his book is the classic story of the poor boy lifting himself out of his class by the life-transforming power of books. Yet Hoggart knows that the odds were stacked against him, and he laments the waste of all those others for whom there were not enough ladders — and still are not.

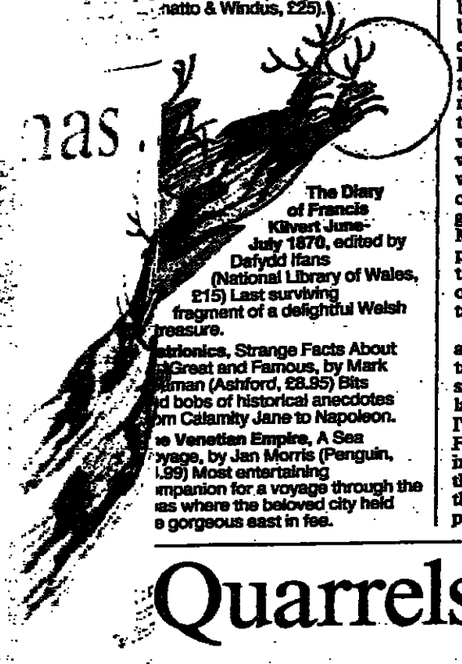
As vividly as in *The Uses of Literacy*, he chronicles again the sights and sounds and smells, the cramped lives, the casual cruelties, the solidarity and stubborn self-respect of those among whom and by whom he was raised, with memorable little cameos on every page reflecting on the place of coal or rhubarb in working-class life, attitudes to sex and suicide, or the shape of the model English working-class breast ("large, low-swinging . . . like very big King William pears") glimpsed when he surprised his cousin washing.

Yet with all the depth of feeling just below the surface he maintains a scrupulous academic detachment that precludes any trace of romanticism or self-indulgence. A wise and moving book.

QUICK LIST

e Literary Editor's selection of eresting books published this ek:

ssued by a Bear, The Making Eastern Europe, by Z.A.B. Zeman natto & Windus, £25).)



The Diary of Francis Kilvert June-July 1870, edited by Dafydd Ifans (National Library of Wales, £15) Last surviving fragment of a delightful Welsh treasure.

strionics, Strange Facts About Great and Famous, by Mark man (Ashford, £8.95) Bits d bobs of historical anecdotes m Calamity Jane to Napoleon.

e Venetian Empire, A Sea yage, by Jan Morris (Penguin, .99) Most entertaining mpanion for a voyage through the as where the beloved city held e gorgeous east in fee.

An invitation to feel superior

Byron Rogers

JAMES THURBER COLLECTING HIMSELF
Edited by Michael Rosen
Hamish Hamilton, £14.95

This book lays itself open to a prosecution under the Trade Descriptions Act, since Thurber had nothing to do with the collecting. It is a last trawl of those articles, reviews and cartoons which he himself never issued in book form, here gathered together by someone described as the literary director of the Thurber House. Thurber actually lived in the house for four years — but no matter. The book is a triumph for the Eng. Lit. industry. It comes with a preface, footnotes ("for those writings centred on an individual who has been displaced from our current attention"), and a biographical sketch of the editor, Michael Rosen. His is not a long preface; it just seems that way, like those introductions to classic films on BBC2 which turn out to have taken just five minutes. And then?

I am staring at a cartoon in which a large woman in evening dress is tapping a startled bald man on the shoulder. Beside her stands an even larger, bespectacled woman. "Well, I've found Miss Gish for you, Mr Freeman. No relation to the sisters, incidentally." Where's the joke, in the "incidentally"? I am staring at it the way I stare at the television plays of Mr Dennis Potter, wor-riedly, sadly, and with mounting irritation. Have I missed something? Why can't I be on the inner track with all the others?

The world of Thurber's cartoons is a moneyed social world where people meet at cocktail parties. It is almost always indoors and the people are dazed by sophistication to the point where they cannot remember when they last laughed out loud or raged. In life they would take *The New Yorker*. Yet here you are invited to smile at their pretension ("The trouble is you make me think too much") and their claustrophobia ("I had the strangest feeling in the elevator that I was changing into Clare Luce"). You are in fact being invited to feel superior (Thurber, said Truman Capote, was not a nice man). Still it is a fairly heady invitation, on which the commercial success of *The New Yorker* was once based. You make damned sure you smile.

I was wary of the writing, for a man who sets out to be funny in prose rarely is. Have you noticed how aware you are of the words in humorous columns, aware of their shape and sound, of the way they jostle each other and go nowhere in particular? Writers are funniest when they back into comedy. This is Thurber on Thomas Wolfe, who once informed him that he, Thurber, writing short occasional pieces, did not know what it was to be a writer. "He did not believe in winding the clocks or cleaning the silver; he never swept the floor or washed the window pane; long untrimmed essays grew up in the window boxes of his prose and were not plucked out. That kind of housekeeping may be Divine Fire but it isn't art." On Fitzgerald's *The Last Tycoon*: "His publishers tell me that it has sold only about 3,500 copies. This indicates, I think, that it has fallen and will continue to fall into the right hands."

He is funniest of all when he is being cross about *The New Yorker*, the editors of which scattered commas like maenads, and once changed "they're not allowed to shoot wood ducks in this state any more" to "hunters haven't been allowed to shoot wood ducks in this state since the Connecticut legislature passed a law in 1932 putting those birds on the protected list".

Thurber was an honest man, admitting to having never been able to finish *The Pickwick Papers*, and helpful too. Finding the *Odyssey* dull ("there are too many dreary hours between this rosy-fingered dawn and that rosy-fingered dawn"), he suggested calling in Walt Disney.

I understood one cartoon. No dogs, no seals, no drawing rooms. At a tennis tournament one sports reporter at a typewriter is turning to another. "Hey, Joe, how d'ya spell 'rhythm'?" I did not laugh or smile at that, but I nodded. I really did.

In tune with the bourgeoisie

Michael Grosvenor Myer

THE SINGING BOURGEOIS
Songs of the Victorian Drawing Rooms and Parlour
By Derek Scott
Open University Press, £30, paperback, £12.95

The essentially bourgeois nature of parlour balladry, Derek Scott suggests, derives from the 18th-century pleasure gardens, sources of much of the tradition and of many songs still being sung during Queen Victoria's reign, by their nature functioning in summer when the aristocracy were out of Town, so that their main patronage was among the bourgeoisie.

He tends to write, however, as if the genre, and the custom of singing to the piano in the home, sprang fully armed in the Victorian period. It was going on much earlier; certainly no later than the turn of the century. Jane Austen used domestic singing to point many a moral or advance many a tale: think of Mary Bennet's accomplishments, Harriet Smith's hatred of "this Italian singing; there is no understanding a word of it".

Perhaps the reasons for Mr Scott's emphases are political. This is very much a political book. As part of the Open University Press's "Popular Music in Britain" series, it could hardly be otherwise. Dave Harker and Richard Middleton, series editors, assert in their editorial preface that their series is not "above the struggle". They "do not pretend to produce an objective record". They are "unrepentantly on the side of the majority"; their "main perspective is from 'below' "; they aim to "clear the ground for a genuinely democratic musical culture of the future".

Despite having lumbered themselves with some of the heaviest impedimenta of the Lefty consensus — Dave Harker, on the cover of his own *Fakesong* in the series, claims membership of the SWP — they produce some good books, in which scholarship and cogency, however aimed, are to be respected.

Derek Scott's political statements tend sometimes to be woolly. He denounces Gilbert's "Where everyone is somebody,/ Then no one's anybody" as an attack on republicanism. Nothing of the sort: it's an attack on wimpish egalitarianism, hardly the same thing. And, informative as is the would-be clinching penultimate chapter, "Hegemony", on music as tool of class oppression, it is largely irrelevant to the book's ostensible subject.

But *The Singing Bourgeois* is certainly scholarly. It has excellent musical analyses, illustrated with copious examples. It is less good on the words: few extracts from ballad texts are given, and none at all in full, making much of the argument impossible to follow. Strictures on Hemans and Cowen's "The Better Land" become merely opaque and assertive. The information that the "overt theatricality" of someone's religious ballads caused them to be described as "trembling on the edge of blasphemy" is potentially interesting, but remains merely frustrating without adequate examples. Surely Mr Scott doesn't imagine that a comprehensive collection of ballad sheet music is still part of the equipment of every bourgeois drawing room.

Similarly, several references to Holman Hunt's "The Awakening Conscience" are well taken, as it forms the cover illustration. But it is unhelpful to relate a ballad heroine's reaction to being jilted to "the quiet dignity that Millais portrays in 'The Wedding Card' " without a reproduction. Surely the paintings in question would have been more valuable than photographs of Victorian singers.

On the credit side, Mr Scott is convincing on militarism and imperialism. He demonstrates that the minstrel show was exploitative and demeaning, whereas spirituals were respected, especially the noted Jubilee Singers. (His bibliography, though, gives 1899 as the date of Marsh's *The Story of the Jubilee Singers*; my copy, an augmented edition with songs, is imprinted 1897.) I looked forward to the chapter on promotions and publishers as likely to be rather boring, but in fact Mr Scott's account of copyright and piracy hassles is fascinating.

Quite a lot to enjoy, admire, and learn from, then, in *The Singing Bourgeois*, but not worth quite two cheers. One and three quarters would be about the limit.

Quarrelsome charm of a critical success

John Grigg

HAZLITT: A LIFE
By Stanley Jones
Oxford, £35

William Hazlitt revealed much of himself in his work, and has been much written about by others; yet it seems that there is always more to be said. Only a few years ago (1983) David Bromwich's *Hazlitt: The Mind of a Critic* appeared in Britain, and now Stanley Jones has given us the fruit of a quarter-century's research. Whereas Bromwich's book is essentially a study of Hazlitt's literary work, Jones's is more of a straight biography, though he begins at the time of Hazlitt's first marriage and deals with his earlier life by means of flashback.

It is tempting to describe the two books as complementary. Both have the blessing of that great Hazlitt fan, Michael Foot, and both should certainly be read by anyone who shares his enthusiasm for the subject. But if a choice has to be made I would recommend Jones's; despite its more strictly biographical character, it is also very strong on the critical and interpretative side.

The key to Hazlitt's tortured, yet robust, personality is that he was a natural aesthete whose upbringing was that of a radical Dissenter. He owed most of his education to his father, a Unitarian minister, from whom he derived what Jones calls "a perverse zeal to relinquish the profitable delusion and embrace the dowerless truth". At the same time he had a sense of beauty that conflicted with his puritanism, and a sense of mystery at odds with his rationalism. Hence the extraordinary range of his intelligence, taste, and sympathy.

"You know who the critics are? The men who have failed in literature and art." Disraeli's *mot* applies, up to a point, to Hazlitt, who had undoubtedly failed as painter and author before he took to criticism. Yet the quality of what he then wrote about plays, books, and almost every aspect of life has an originality that sets it on a par with the work of those conventionally described as creative artists. And what was most original about him was his style, in which, as Jones says, he "turned his back on the lifeless fixed cadences of elegant composition and moved towards the natural rhythms and idioms of common speech".

His versatility might, according to Jones, be mistaken for that of the journalist, "were it not for a powerful unifying principle that inspired every part of it". What was this single principle? I can see no other but the style, which reflected the man himself. Of course Hazlitt had convictions, as he had moods, and his unique personality resulted from their interaction. Academics such as Jones tend to use journalism as a dirty word, but surely some of the very best writers have been journalists, including Dickens (who, among other things, shared with Hazlitt the benefit of service as a parliamentary reporter).

The book is excellent on Hazlitt's "singular and complex" attitude to the social question. He was "less concerned with the distresses of the governed than with the iniquities of the governing body" — a comment that seems to echo a famous one of Macaulay's, that the puritan hated bear-baiting "not because it gave pain to the bear, but because it gave pleasure to the spectators". In theory opposed to property, Hazlitt was in practice entirely feckless about money, having an artistic temperament and the irresponsibility that often goes with it. His interest in politics was genuine, but generalized; unlike, say, Bernard Shaw, he could not be bothered with the concrete details of policy.

Is he, on the whole, an attractive character? To Jones he clearly is, and many of his contemporaries found him so, at any rate intermittently. Though he quarrelled sooner or later with most of his friends, Lamb was one who continued, none the less, to acknowledge his virtues and his charm. No doubt much of the acerbity that he could show was due to nervous and psychological tension, affecting him only at particular times and in particular situations. But there may also have been a more permanent streak of malice that caused him — in the words of Mary Russell Mitford, whom Jones introduces as a new witness — "to turn the grandest compliment into the bitterest sarcasm".

Among the critical giants of the 19th century Hazlitt may not have quite the stature of Matthew Arnold, and on the subject of visual art is certainly not the equal of Ruskin. Yet there is a link with Ruskin in his amazingly early recognition of Turner's genius, to which Jones draws attention. At a time when Turner's distinctive style was only just beginning to emerge, Hazlitt wrote of "the force, the depth, the fullness and precision of this artist's eye for colour", to which, decades later, even such a connoisseur and patron of the arts as the Prince Consort remained blind.

RECORDS

ARTHUR FOSTER

Suave, sensuous, sophisticated: the sounds of the Hilliard Ensemble

Anonymous splendour

CLASSICAL

Paul Griffiths

Perotin: Organa Hilliard Ensemble (ECM 837 751-2)
Machaut: Messe de Notre Dame, Lai de la fontainne Hilliard Ensemble (Hyperion CDA 66358)
Ockeghem: Missa prolationum, Marian motets Hilliard Ensemble (EMI CDC 7 49798 2)
Dowland: Ayres Hilliard Ensemble (EMI CDC 7 49805 2)

There is a distinct Hilliard sound — suave, sensuous but confident, and plaintive with the counter-tenor tones of David James at the top — prevailing even through music that spans more than four centuries. But then the irrelevance of time is part of the point. Paul Hillier's introduction to the ECM record must be the only writing on Perotin that quotes from Stravinsky, Thoreau and Steve Reich, and it is only a small step, as small as that between the names, from the Hilliard's Perotin to their Pärt.

They sing the music as if it had just been delivered to them, savouring its dancing upper parts (so often in 6/8 time) over plainsong extended to a sequence of drones, its ceaseless patterning of small motifs, its momentous sense of climax and re-start when one drone note is replaced by the next, its luscious, long enjoyments of a single harmony, often done with a marvellous bell-like crescendo.

Perotin remains a dim figure. The Hilliard sing most of the pieces attributed to him by a later theorist, but their range is so wide as hardly to betoken a personality. That, though, is partly what makes this music so modern: the splendour here is an anonymous splendour, of melodic shape, metre and modal harmony being asserted with the greatest possible immediacy. The effect in these performances is rich and thrilling.

The Hilliard's Machaut mass is comparatively disappointing, lacking the carved contrapuntal clarity and the robust forward motion of the Taverner Consort's recording on EMI. No doubt the differences spring partly from different choices of scoring: ATTB for the Hilliard Ensemble, with two voices to a part; a solo TTBB quartet for the Taverner group. But the Hilliard record has the rare advantage of a complete performance of one of Machaut's lays; long musical poems where the narrative impetus is minimal, but where the succession of verbal conceits on the same subject is matched by a ringing of changes on a few basic musical motifs. The *Lai de la fonteinne* is a particularly apt companion piece to the mass, in that it is a rebus on the Trinity, and in that it is ensemble music, alternating solo stanzas with three-part canons. This small portrait of the greatest composer of the 14th century is completed with his puzzle rondeau, *Ma fin est mon commencement*.

Moving forward a century, the Ockeghem record can be recommended without reservation. We are again in Boxgrove Priory, but the recording is closer, so that Ockeghem's long, mellifluous and extraordinarily unpredictable polyphonic inventions can come across with perfect ease.

The Prolation mass is a marvel. Much of it consists of duets (sung here by soloists: alto and tenor, or tenor and bass), where one is less aware of the canonic relationship between the voices than of their tendrilous mingling together and springing apart: this is in stark contrast with the effect of Machaut's canons. The full episodes are just as enthralling, and just as enthrallingly done, with serene woven passages and others, like the start of the Credo, where long notes stand out in isolation.

In the Dowland record the all-male Hilliard are joined by the soprano Lynne Dawson, who has the top line in nearly all the songs, and also by instrumentalists (in most cases a lute-viol duo or an organ). But the group retains its particular seriousness, cogency and allure, and Dowland's chromatic harmony is more poignantly felt in these madrigalian performances than it is when the pieces are done as lute songs. The style fits this collection mostly of spiritual songs — as surely as it fits the bizarrely different world of Perotin.

CLASSICAL UPDATE

Rolf Hind (Factory FACD 256)
A beautiful, clear-toned, snap-rhythmed recital from this exceptional young pianist. His programme includes Ligeti's first book of studies, making Technicolor diffraction patterns out of black-and-white piano tone, a Messiaen bird, a Carter sonata and a piece by Steve Martland.

Martland: Babi Yar, Drill Residentie Orchestra/Howarth, Bouwhuis/Van Zeeland (Factory FACD 266)
Two big and powerful works by this young British composer: energetically pulsed, sometimes brutal. *Babi Yar*, regrettably titled, is for a large, metal-heavy orchestra; *Drill* steers two pianists.

On a swing and a prayer

JAZZ

Clive Davis

Ruby Braff/Dick Hyman: Music From My Fair Lady (Concord CCD 4393)
Panama Francis & His Savoy Sultans: Gettin' in The Groove (Black & Blue 233-320)
Miles Davis/John Coltrane: Copenhagen 1960 (Royal Jazz RJ501)

It is difficult to think of a more melodic jazz musician than the cornettist Ruby Braff. Hard, too, to remember a time when his playing — an urbane distillation of the finest swing virtues — was ever in fashion.

Music from My Fair Lady hardly sounds like the kind of project that will reverse the trend. But venture past the dreary sleeve (a Concord trademark, unfortunately) and you will find another first-rate Braff recording.

The most remarkable feature of this session is the sense of effortlessness. Dick Hyman — best known outside the jazz world as musical consultant to Woody Allen — makes an ideal foil, his stride piano always buoyant, never intrusive. With 12 tracks amounting to 53 minutes' playing time, the album hardly ever sags.

Seventy-one-year-old Panama Francis formed the Savoy Sultans in the mid-1970s in memory of the house band at New York's legendary Savoy Ballroom. The line-up to be heard on *Gettin' in The Groove*, a welcome reissue from 1979, is even stronger than his current unit, boasting as it does such veterans as the trumpeter Francis Williams and the alto player Norris Turney.

During the 1950s, Panama Francis temporarily abandoned straight jazz for session work with R & B and gospel artists. Some of the energy of that period carries over into this recording, with Francis heaving the band through riff after riff. On "Shipyard Social Function" he also pays tribute to his old Savoy boss, Lucky Millinder.

The latest Miles Davis recording to arrive on the market is part of a batch of unreleased live recordings, including work by Charles Mingus and Bill Evans. Davis's Copenhagen concert features what was, in the view of many, his finest-ever quintet, with Coltrane, Wynton Kelly, Paul Chambers and Jimmy Cobb.

Only the most obsessive collectors, however, will be interested in this particular item, which contains only three tracks — "So What", "On Green Dolphin Street" and "All Blues" — recorded with variable sound quality. Better by far to go for the Stockholm concert of the same month, which recently found its way on to the bargain-price Giants Of Jazz label.

JAZZ UPDATE

Irene Reid The Lady From Savannah (Birdland MC5 89)
The brash, ex-Basie singer rekindles the atmosphere of her recent residency at Ronnie Scott's. Mike Carr's organ and Jim Mullen's guitar form a fluid, unfussy backdrop for a performance topped by a Dinah Washington-style blues medley.

ROCK UPDATE

Roxy Music The Early Years (EG EGBC3)
Handsome boxed set, available in CD and cassette formats only, incorporating the *Roxy Music*, *For Your Pleasure* and *Stranded* albums together with a special EG compilation album featuring ancient and recent material by acts such as Emerson Lake and Palmer.

Simple Minds The Amsterdam EP (Virgin 662 878-211)
A desirable 20-minute item featuring their spruced up version of Prince's "Sign O' the Times", a re-run of "Let it all Come Down", and a wonderfully cheesy rendition of Hubert Parry's "Jerusalem".

Elvis Presley, Roy Orbison and others Mystery Train (Milan CH 509)
Enjoyable soundtrack from the Jim Jarmusch film of the same title currently doing the rounds. A string of period piece gems by Presley ("Mystery Train", "Blue Moon"), Otis Redding ("Pain in my Heart"), Rufus Thomas ("The Memphis Train") and others gives way to a strikingly evocative instrumental score by "no-wave" modern jazz luminary John Lurie.

A-Z GUIDE TO ROCK

Part 9 of David Sinclair's collectors' A-Z, a scrupulously researched and patently biased guide to the essential albums of the most enduring performers of rock. To qualify for inclusion in this series, an act must have sustained a recording career of at least 10 years, and have mustered at least one decent album during that time.

The entries are designed to be pasted on to index cards and stored in a 6in by 4in filing box, available from most good stationery shops, to form an instant guide to the hits and misses of rock history.

THE CLASH

No matter what people tell you about the Sex Pistols, the Jam or the Buzzcocks, the Clash were the only punk group with serious clout. The supreme sense of urgent, righteous fury which fuels **The Clash** (1977) prompted the American critic Robert Christgau's extravagant pronouncement that it was "the greatest rock 'n' roll album ever manufactured anywhere", but ultimately the band's *coup de maitre* was 1979's **London Calling**. Here the passion remains undiluted, but a wide range of influences, from rockabilly to reggae, informs a stunning collection of songs reflecting the shrewd ears and agile minds at work behind the Cro-Magnon leather boy look. Although Mick Jones has subsequently achieved patchy success with Big Audio Dynamite, and Joe Strummer has been a listless composer of film soundtracks, his best effort being "Love Kills" from Alex Cox's *Sid and Nancy*, the Clash have not excelled as individuals. A 28-track compilation, **The Story Of The Clash Volume 1** (1988) is recommended without reservation.

Ry Cooder

RY COODER

Ry Cooder is the original world musician. Long before fusing rock with everything from township jive to salsa became fashionable, the Californian student of vanishing folk styles was juggling an astonishing array of influences in his music. On his 1976 album, **Chicken Skin Music**, he mixes his languid, dustbowl blues guitar style with contributions from the Tex-Mex accordionist Flaco Jiminez, the Hawaiian steel-guitarist Gabby Pahinui and the gospel vocalist Bobby King to create a wonderful rootsy stew of cross-cultural syncopations. In a different vein, as a member of Captain Beefheart's Magic Band in 1967 his radically traumatized country blues technique was a prominent feature of the underground classic **Safe as Milk**. More recently, he has stamped his elegant mark on a succession of film soundtracks. Typical is his work on Wim Wenders's moody marathon **Paris, Texas** (1985), where the spine-tingling bottleneck motifs conjure visions of tumbleweed clumps gusting fitfully across desolate desert landscapes.

NEXT WEEK: Alice Cooper, Elvis Costello

The Times Prize Jumbo Crossword

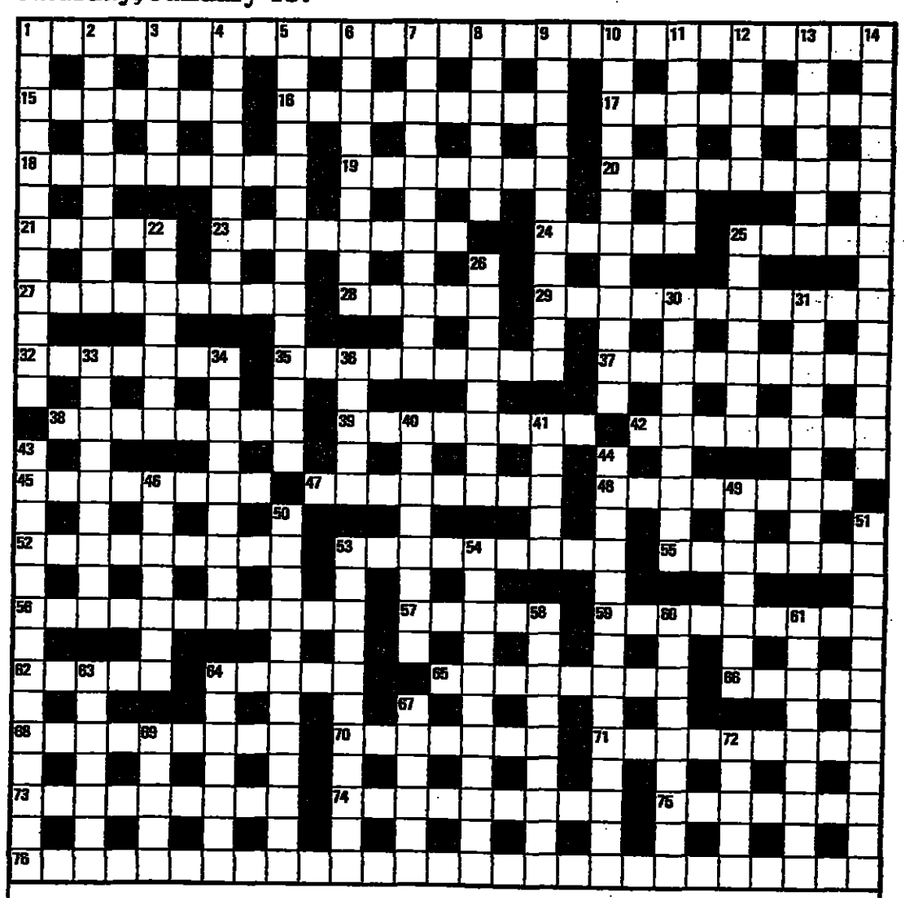
Prizes of £50 will be given for the first five correct solutions opened on Monday, January 8, 1990. Entries should be sent to The Times Jumbo Crossword Competition, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London, E1 9XN. The winners and solution will be published on Saturday, January 13.

ACROSS

1 Dawn query by a deserted damsel in distress (3.5,3,3,1,4,6,2)
15 No fair weather function of royalty, it's said (7).
16 Painter's first application can do true transformation (9).
17 X marks the spot below this these days (9).
18 Sign-writer's job for a landlord in Gateshead (9).
19 Erica chases taxi as a means of communication (7).
20 Peacock Abbey as amended in the margin (9).
21 An attempt to disconcert (5).
23 What bread, wine, poetry and choral accompaniment make of Omar's wilderness (8).
24 Marks as one form of currency (5).
25 I ring back about this bloomer (5).
27 Drop agent — replace with sponsor (9).
28 Beginning to decipher Lawrence's alias? Rubbish! (5).
29 One that may spot a nocturnal bandit (11)
32 Did lute suffer damage by one throwing spanners? (7).
35 Caliban's isle was not so silent (9).
37 A palm cast made into a poultice (9).
38 Original way it ripens possibly (8).
39 Blame fish salesman for a start (8).
42 Club makes move on receiving money (8).
45 Through channels that span the valleys (8).
47 One who transmits, say, a sort of letter to a printer (8).
48 A penny from out of the blue? (8).
52 Among artists free perhaps to come to conclusion on matters submitted (9).
53 Sort of pen-pal in eastern land that's almost flat (9).
55 Utopia for etymologists (7).
56 Workman terribly angered when this explodes (4-7).
57 Blow from a cane makes us smart (5).
59 Entrust the driver's position to a specially appointed body (9).
62 Wine-bibber rejected this advice to transplant, for instance, an aspidistra (5).
64 An orthodontic device or two (5).
65 Spirit manifestations that may cover our gifts, we hear (8).
66 Right oven needed for this joint (5).
68 Literary travellers abroad have their day soon after Christmas (9).
70 A prison officer who hands out prizes? (7).
71 Expulsion for accident to jet loaded with cement mixture (9).
73 Stick grasped by mad Bruce Morgan for instance (9).
74 Central Inn terms, nothing changed (9).
75 Arrangement of film — could be Tango in Maine (7).
76 Poor buffer's dying request for waterproof cover (4,2,2,7,2,9,6).

DOWN

1 The first Christmas singers (6-6).
2 Extravagance prohibited, it's said — this covers the middleman (9).
3 Love to be the sailorman's sweetheart (5).
4 Appealing for revision of gratuity (9).
5 Junior make-believe leader of forty-five (5-9).
6 A French police department is indeed in two minds (9).
7 Cop takes boosters to reform this flasher (11).
8 A Russian flower is beloved of Venus (6).
9 Organism's development goes on to what begins in the beginning (11).
10 Protest concerning a church vessel (12).
11 A squadron leader puts his name to transfers (7).
12 Adroit, taking in money for this earthenware (5).
13 Game that's the object of the football striker (7).
14 Summon men to enter the swirling eastern vortex for excessive stimulation (4-10).
22 No light roles for villains (7).
25 Crafty play inside cover with a floater on the pond (4-3).
26 Something anabolic to make a heavenly body (8).
30 It is up in the pass — the Big Cat Dance (9).
31 Musical embellishment reproduced by eg a cornet (5-4).
33 The approximate triangle of shark-infested waters (6,3).
34 Hamlet's prior alternative (9).
36 Welsh mountain giant is chasing one doctor (5).
40 Some plan to correct excess verbiage (8).
41 About 201 gunners reorganized (5).
43 Flying space here for blue-birds (4,3,7).
44 Break dancer's talent with name surpassing everything (14).
46 Honourable music-maker (7).
49 More sharp-witted, this sort of clue? That's right (7).
50 Temporary accommodation for Omar's sultans with their pomp (12).
51 Capital way Somerset town supports, say, dividing property income (6,6).
53 Perhaps bein' a simple characteristic of the common herd (11).
54 Lothario was one liable to fidget and go astray round the Orient (11).
58 Little Henry gets by, sending up a high ball in a curve (9).
60 Ready for a title role (9).
61 Exchange foreign currency with evidence of provenance (5,4).
63 Peter has high honour with a universal remedy (7).
64 Headgear for a belle and held by her boy-friend (7).
67 W.G. Bunter among its chief attractions (6).
69 Many hurt by a magic spell (5).
72 Nero's first seen in his costume in an oriental vehicle (5).



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SOLUTION TO NO 2054
(last Saturday's prize concise)

ACROSS: 1 Capote 4 Semi 7 Ike 9 Euratom 10 Asset 11 Roman Catholic 12 Fast train 16 Happy Families 19 Raisa 20 Liberal 21 Ray 22 Ache 23 Seamer

DOWN: 1 Cheers 2 Purim 3 Tetanus 5 Epsilon 6 Intact 7 Impartially 8 Each 12 Foppish 13 Amiable 14 Sharia 15 Ashlar 17 Year 18 In rem

The winners of prize concise No 2054 are Michael C. Bell, Newport House, Newport, Berkeley, Glos; and Miss D.C. Palmer, Russell Hill, Purley, Surrey.

Concise Jumbo

There are no prizes for this crossword. The solution will appear on Boxing Day

ACROSS

1 Robert Burns's wee mouse (7,6,7,7)
15 Non-professional (7)
16 Furtively listen in (9)
17 Decree by Pope (5,4)
18 Spread risk investment (4,5)
19 Unscrupulous lawyer (7)
20 Civil action bringer (9)
21 Masses (5)
23 Asked (8)
24 Cut in two (5)
25 Vision (5)
27 Ethyne (9)
28 Stared (5)
29 Assembling into form (11)
32 Self-centredness (7)
35 Win over (4,5)
37 Commercial exhibition (5,4)
38 Rake (8)
39 Practise (8)
42 Hermaphrodite (8)
45 Rejection of all authority (8)
47 Story teller (8)
48 Racial destruction (8)
52 In this very place (5,4)
53 Sweetened (4,5)
55 Dramatic scene (7)
56 Hostilities pause signal (4,2,5)
57 Healed (5)
59 Homesick (9)
62 Pleasant tasting (5)
64 Permission to leave (5)
65 Musket infantryman (8)
66 Spanish friend (5)
68 In disguise (9)
70 Illegal (7)
71 Military manoeuvres (9)
73 Remarkable things (9)
74 Flowery exaggeration (9)
75 Wrongdoing (7)
76 Disraeli view of numerical data (4,6,4,3,10)

DOWN

1 Oxford poetry professor (6,6)
2 Obliterate (9)
3 Went on knees (5)
4 Greenish blue (9)
5 Arguable (4,2,8)
6 Gorgeous (9)
7 Quick anger display (5,6)
8 By turn (2,4)
9 Bought back (11)
10 Disfavour (12)
11 Four-winged aircraft (7)
12 Tired out (3,2)
13 Going round (7)
14 Louis Armstrong soloist (4,10)
22 Fashionable (7)
25 Snooze (7)
26 Regimental administrator (8)
30 18th century "clarinet" (9)
31 Mixed up (2,1,6)
33 Raw food eating (9)
34 Disorderly mess (5,4)
36 Grub, tadpole (5)
40 Ship's biscuit (8)
41 Recruit (5)
43 Not up to code standard (14)
44 Prestige growth (14)
46 Rocklike (7)
49 Jewish mystical tradition (7)
50 Go back to HQ (6,2,4)
51 Succulence (12)
53 Resources (11)
54 Lift up your hearts (6,5)
58 Floating timber (9)
60 Cry loudly (6,3)
61 Rapid notes series (9)
63 Red-edged carnation (7)
64 Clay cannabis pipe (7)
67 Pass by (6)
69 Swung sail before wind (5)
72 Sleeve ends (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 2059
(yesterday's concise crossword)

ACROSS: 8 Gumboil 9 Award 10 Ask 11 Librarian 12 Tarka 14 Engages 17 Staring 19 Nylon 22 Narcissus 24 Gib 25 Asana 26 Emerald

DOWN: 1 Aghast 2 Smoker 3 Kohlrabi 4 Flabbergasted 5 Kava 6 Baring 7 Adonis 13 AZT 15 Gangster 16 Eco 17 Sinbad 18 Adrian 20 Logjam 21 Nobody 23 Iras

CHRISTMAS EVENTS

There's no need to stay at home during the festive season. **Judy Froshaug** suggests some days out for the whole family

MARC ASPLAND

The wonder of Christmas: the Bethnal Green Museum of Childhood in London has lined up plenty of special attractions to thrill the children

OUTINGS

XMAS PUDDING: Famous Christmas stories, including *The Christmas Carol*, narrated by Gabriel Woolf.
Malthouse Theatre, Malthouse Lane, Hassocks, West Sussex. Today, 8pm. Admission £6.50, with supper £15.50. Box-office (04446 41047).

GERRY COTTLE'S CHRISTMAS CIRCUS: Traditional circus with sensational acts – from trapeze artists to knife throwers, plus clowns, animals and the ringmaster all a two-hour entertainment.
Wembley Centre, Wembley, Middlesex. Today until Jan 14, daily at 2pm and 5pm; except Jan 8/9/10/11/12, 7pm only. Adult £6-£10, senior citizen and child £3-£5. Box-office (01-902 1234).

CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL CONCERT: Seasonal music with the Aberafan Male Choir and the Flowers Gloucester Band.
Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire. Today. 7.30pm. Tickets £1.50 and £3.

BOXING DAY MUMMERS: Traditional mummers play and Morris dancing.
Stocks Hill, Church Street, Moulton, Northampton. Tues, 11am-12 noon. Free.

PILGRIMAGE TO FOUNTAINS ABBEY: Annual event for all who wish to celebrate Christmas by joining a short pilgrimage to Fountains Abbey.
Meet Ripon Cathedral, Ripon, North Yorkshire. Tues, 11am. Walk takes approximately two hours.

NATIONAL GALLERY CHRISTMAS EVENTS: Four special guided tours of the gallery for children aged eight to 13, to introduce them to the delights of visiting a picture gallery. Christmas quiz to identify certain paintings from various descriptions available from information desk. Prizes for the first correct entries opened after Jan 15.
National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, London WC2 (01-839 3321). Wed, Thurs, Fri, Sat, 11.30am. Tour takes an hour. Meet in the vestibule outside the gallery shop. Free.

LONDON TRANSPORT EVENTS: Visit for children to meet Uncle Underground, who will give them a small gift. From Wednesday, an exhibition of all kinds of Meccano models, including trains, buses and trams.
London Transport Museum, The Piazza, Covent Garden, London WC2 (01-379 6344). Today and Wed to Jan 3, 11am-6pm. Adult £2.60, child £1.20.

CHRISTMAS CHARACTERS: "Spirit of Christmas" exhibition with St Nicholas, Old Father Christmas and others roaming the museum at weekends. Also children's stories and workshops on Saturdays – today the theme is Christmas clowns, on Dec 30, the snowman. On Thurs Dec 28, at regular intervals throughout the day, traditional Christmas music by the York Waits and Red Byrd.
Bethnal Green Museum of Childhood, Cambridge Heath Road, London E2 (01-981 1711). Until Jan 14, closed Sun to Wed, and Jan 1. Mon-Thurs and Sat, 10am-5.50pm; Sun, 2.30-5.50pm.

CHRISTMAS BEAULIEU: From Boxing Day to Jan 8, all extras within the ground are free including the monorail ride, Wheels – a ride through 100 years of motoring – rides on a London omnibus, miniature veteran car, plus a sound and vision presentation of the history of motoring and a model railway exhibition.
Beaulieu, Brockenhurst, Hampshire (0590 612345). Daily, 10am-5pm, except Christmas Day. Adult £5.25, senior citizen and student £4, child £3.50.

BOXING DAY FUN DAY: Mince pies and punch in the multi-period manor house, which contains displays of tableaux and contemporary furnishings. Also a collection of historic buildings and the largest traditional pottery on the island.
Haseley Manor, Arreton, near Newport, Isle of Wight (0983 865420). Tues, 10am-6pm. Adult £2.15, senior citizen £2, child £1.85.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR AT THE MUSEUM OF LONDON: Magnus Magnusson gives an Historical Association lecture on the Vikings for eight to 13-year-olds and adults on Thurs at 2.30pm (for tickets contact 01-735 3901). Fri to Mon, Dick Whittington Shadow Puppet Workshops for children aged six and over and families. Tickets can be reserved in advance (01-600 3699, ext 239). Tickets £1.50 payable on the door. On New Year's Eve, 2.30-4.30pm, the Museum of London Mummers provide music, dancing and a play for all the family. Free.
Museum of London, London Wall, London EC2 (01-600 2699).

CHRISTMAS AT THE LONDON PLANETARIUM AND MADAME TUSSAUD'S: Human robot in the Planetarium gallery. Clown and magician in Tussaud's, where new additions include Lenny Henry, Kylie Minogue, Eddie Murphy and Joan Collins.
Madame Tussaud's and London Planetarium, Marylebone Road, London NW1. Today until Jan 7, except Christmas Day. Further information (01-935 6861).

AUSTIN BROTHERS CIRCUS: Sally Chipperfield's performing animals, acrobatics, a Wild West rodeo, clowns, jugglers and trapeze artists.
The Hippodrome, Battersea Park, London SW11. Tomorrow until Jan 14. Mon-Fri, 3pm and 7.30pm; Sat and Sun, 3pm and 6pm. No matinees Jan 8-12, no 6pm performance tomorrow and Dec 31. Adult £6-£12, child under-12 and senior citizens £3-£6. Box-office (01-924 1111).

DUXFORD AIRFIELD: Home of Britain's finest collection of military and aviation aircraft, plus audio-visual presentations, exhibitions, restoration programme and an opportunity to look over Concorde.
Imperial War Museum, Duxford, Cambridge (0223 833963). Daily, 10am-4pm, except Dec 24-26 and Jan 1. Adult £3.50, child £1.80.

WELSH WALK: Family coastal walk followed by a chestnut roast.
Meet at Harbour master's office, Newquay Pier, Dyfed. Dec 28, 11am. Walk approximately five miles long. Transport back to Newquay provided. Free.

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES AT THE ROYAL AIR FORCE MUSEUM: Quiz and trail for children under 15, which involves identifying planes and exhibits from clues. Prizes for winners in three age groups. Also a new flight simulator in which children can experience flying in an RAF Tornado or take part in a dog fight with the Red Baron during the First World War. Free film show.
RAF Museum, Hendon, London NW9 (01-205 2266). Daily until Jan 6, except Dec 24-26 and Jan 1, 10am-6pm. Adult £3.30, child £1.65, family ticket – two adults and up to four children – £8.80.

FUN AND GAMES: Tired of all the usual party games, you might find inspiration from those shown in this exhibition, drawn from the Museum of London's reserve collection, with all sorts of games from the late-18th century to the present day.
City Art Centre, Market Street, Edinburgh. Until Feb 3, except Dec 24-27 and Dec 31-Jan 3. Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm. Free.

THE DINOSAUR ROADSHOW: Travelling exhibition on loan from the Ulster Museum with life-size casts, models and rare fossils. Designed to be seen and understood by children, the story is told in comic strip form. Also question and answer games, activity sheets and video.
The Hancock Museum, Newcastle upon Tyne (091 222 7418). Until May 1990, Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm; Sun, 2-5pm. Adult 75p, child 40p.

BRIDGEWATER BOATS OPEN DAYS: Opportunity to look over the 12 traditionally decorated canal boats, all named after T. S. Eliot's cats, learn about canal life and holiday routes. Discounts for early holiday bookings. Mince pies and mulled wine served this Thursday, tea on subsequent dates.
Bridgewater Boats, Castle Wharf, Berkhamsted, Berkshire (0442 863615). Dec 28 and 31, Jan 7 and 14.

THE FIRE EXHIBITION AT HAMPTON COURT: An exhibition which tells the story of the fire of 1986, the intriguing historical discoveries uncovered as a result, and the restoration programme. Among the exhibits, are stonework from Cardinal Wolsey's original Tudor mansion and hand prints and graffiti left by workmen more than 300 years ago.
King's Guard Chamber, Hampton Court Palace, East Molesey, Surrey (01-977 8441).

CHRISTMAS AT THE CANAL MUSEUM: Father Christmas with presents for children, mulled wine and mince pies for parents, an exhibition about the history of canal life and many unusual gifts for sale.
The Canal Museum, Stoke Bruerne, Northamptonshire (0604 882229). Today and tomorrow.

LATE SHOPPING AT LEEDS CASTLE: There's still time to buy many different British-made decorations and gifts, from food, wine and hampers to candles and perfume, and for children wooden toys and games, puzzles, books, kites, dolls and teddy-bears. Tomorrow afternoon, hand bell ringers, choristers and a court jester.
Leeds Castle, Maidstone, Kent. Today, tomorrow, 11am-4pm. Admission to castle and grounds adult £3.80.

CHELTENHAM RACECOURSE TOUR: The tour includes a visit to the Royal Box, the Jockey Club room, sponsor box, Arkle collection and the weighing room, where you can "weigh in" yourself. Souvenir shop and refreshments.
Cheltenham Racecourse, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire (0242 513014). Today, 10am-12 noon. Adult £1.50, accompanied child free.

CORNISH GARDENS: The National Trust gardens at Cotehele and Lanhydrock are open daily from 11am to dusk, and the Trelissick Gardens from Mon to Sat, 11am to dusk for the rest of this month. In all three gardens there is still plenty to see at this time of year. No charge but donations gratefully accepted.

EXHIBITIONS

SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS: An exhibition of the various traditional figures which embody the spirit of Christmas: St Nicholas, Santa Claus, Old Father Christmas, the Scandinavian Christmas gnomes, the Nutcracker, and others.
Bethnal Green Museum of Childhood, Cambridge Heath Road, London E2 (01-980 4315). Mon-Thurs, Sat, 10am-6pm; Sun, 2.30-6pm. Free. Until Jan 14, 1990.

EVERY PICTURE TELLS A STORY – BUT NOT THE STORY YOU EXPECT: New ways to look at old paintings of the Christmas story, and some controversial experiments which tackle questions about X-rays, fakes, restoration – and hidden messages. There is a chance to pit your wits against the organizers of the exhibition and devisers of the questions, the postgraduate students on Manchester University's art gallery and museum studies course.
Astley Cheetham Art Gallery, Trinity Street, Stalybridge, Tameside (061 343 1414). Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri, 1-7.30pm; Sat, 9am-4pm.

MIDAS TOUCH: Inaugurating the Royal Doulton Ceramics Gallery, this exhibition traces 20 years of china production as practised by Doulton, Crown Derby and Minton. Some antique pieces are for sale.
Royal Doulton Gallery, 167 Piccadilly, London W1. Mon-Fri, 9.30am-5.30pm. Until July 19.

THE GRAND TOUR: A glorious romp around France and the rest of Europe through the coloured prints and drawings of illustrator Graham Clarke.
Maidstone Library Gallery, St Faith's Street, Maidstone (0622 52344). Sat, 9.30am-5pm. Free. Last day today.

VIRGIN AND CHILD: An exhibition to celebrate Christmas and the birth of Jesus with drawings from the Christ Church collection.
Christ Church Picture Gallery, Oxford (0865 276172). Mon-Sat, 10.30am-4.30pm; Sun, 2-4.30pm. Admission 50p, concessions 25p. Until Feb 1990.

STITCH TWO TOGETHER: The needlewoman's art in samplers and quilts, both traditional and experimental. The earliest examples date from the 17th century. Demonstrations and workshops.
Newport Museum, John Frost Square, Newport, Gwent (0633 840064). Mon-Thurs, 9.30am-5.30pm; Fri, 9.30am-4.30pm; Sat, 9.30am-4pm. Free. Until Jan 6, 1990.

A BETTER WORLD TOMORROW?: Photographs by Henry Grant, a freelance photographer working in London after the Second World War, whose lens highlighted many of the historic changes in London life in the 1950s, '60s and '70s.
Museum of London, London Wall, EC2 (01-600 3699). Tues-Sat, 10am-6pm; Sun, 2-6pm. Free.

NEW PAINTINGS: First solo exhibition by young British artist Elizabeth Magill, whose large oils juxtapose seemingly unrelated subjects such as details from Leonardo da Vinci's sketchbooks with the upholstery of a Chesterfield suite, diagrams from a car manual or delicate images from a catalogue of flora.
Arnolfini, 16 Narrow Quay, Bristol (0272 299191). Tues-Sat, 11am-8pm; Sun, 2-7pm. Free. Until Jan 14, 1990.

PEWTER 1200-1700: Five centuries of the pewterer's craft, ranging from tiny pewter toys to the finest domestic wares. Three recreated interiors convey the atmosphere of a 17th-century pewterer's shop, workshop, and dining room.
Museum of London, London Wall, EC2 (01-600 3699). Tues-Sat, 10am-6pm; Sun, 2-6pm. Free. Until May 1990.

EVERYTHING STOPS FOR TEA: An exhibition of tea paraphernalia at the ancestral home of Lord Lichfield. Exhibits from Minton, Royal Doulton and Royal Crown Derby trace the history of the priceless leaf from the 17th-century to the present day, from tiny 18th-century teabowls through the rococo revival and the excesses of the late Victorian era.
Shugborough, Milford, near Stafford (0889 881388). Open 11am. Ends tomorrow.

ROCK

CHRIS REA: Reasonable, diligent, experienced, relaxed, highly skilled, overweight and comfortably middle-aged, Rea is very much a rock star of these adult orientated, CD-enriched times.
Brighton Centre (0273 202881), Fri and Sat 30.

BON JOVI: Currently the undisputed kings of heavy rock, still touring the awesomely successful *New Jersey*, released more than a year ago.
NEC, Birmingham (021 780 4133), Wed, Thurs, Fri and Sat 30.

CHAKA KHAN AND OTHERS: Ol' Thunderthighs heads up a cast of dozens, including various members of Soul II Soul, Aswad, Leila K and Adamski, making personal appearances at an all-night rave (9pm-6am) billed as a "Review of the Eighties".
Brixton Academy, London SW9 (01-326 1022), Fri.

LINDISFARNE: The *Fog on the Tyne* veterans reach the climax of their annual Christmas outing.
Newcastle City Hall (091 261 2606), tonight; Sands Centre, Carlisle (0228 25222), Wed; St Georges Hall, Bradford (0274 752000), Thurs; Royal Concert Hall, Nottingham (0602 482626), Fri and Sat 30.

GARY GLITTER'S GANGSHOW II: The indefatigable panto-horse of rock proving more popular than ever on his regular seasonal manoeuvres.
SECC, Glasgow (041 248 3000), tonight and tomorrow; Guildhall, Portsmouth (0705 824355), Wed and Thurs; Colston Hall, Bristol (0272 262957), Fri.

CONCERTS

PAS PIECES: Anthony Twiner conducts the Orchestra of Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet in Tchaikovsky's *Swan Lake* Pas de Deux, his Grand Pas de Deux from *The Nutcracker*, the Blue Bird Pas de Deux from *The Sleeping Beauty*, the Pas de Deux from Messager's *The Two Pigeons*, the Clog Dance from Herold's *La Fille mal Gardée*, the Magic Scene from Delibes's *Coppélia*.
Barbican Centre, Silk Street, London EC2 (01-638 8891). Tues, 7.45pm.

WATSON/WARD: The City of London Sinfonia is conducted by Ian Watson in Mozart's Piano Concerto K 467 (Nicholas Ward, soloist). *Nozze di Figaro* Overture, *Eine kleine Nachtmusik* and Vivaldi's *Seasons*.
Barbican Centre. Wed, 3.30pm.

DREIER/DIMITROVA: Per Dreier conducts the RPO in Rachmaninov's Piano Concerto No 2 (Lora Dimitrova, soloist), Rossini's *William Tell* Overture, Grieg's *Peer Gynt* Suite No 1 and Dvořák's Symphony No 9, "From the New World".
Barbican Centre. Wed, 7.45pm.

FRANKL FIRST: In the first post-Christmas concert at the Wigmore Hall Peter Frankl performs much piano music by Chopin and Bartók, including the former's Ballade No 1 and the latter's Suite Op 14.
Wigmore Hall, 36 Wigmore St, London W1 (01-935 2141). Thurs, 7.30pm.

KING AND CONSORT: Robert King directs The King's Consort in Purcell's *Fly, Bold Rebellion* and *Celebrate this Festival*, a Vivaldi concerto for two trumpets and another one for two oboes.
Wigmore Hall. Fri, 7.30pm.

OPERA

ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA: Richard Jones's outstanding and hilarious production of Prokofiev's *The Love for Three Oranges* on Fri (7.30pm); and on Sat Dec 30 at 2.30pm and 7.30pm, a revival of David Pountney's magical Fifties-style *Hansel and Gretel*, conducted by Mark Elder.
Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (01-836 3161).

OPERA NORTH: Performances on Thurs and Sat Dec 30 at 7.15pm of Giles Havergal's production of *The Barber of Seville* in English, and with Russell Smythe in the title role. *Tosca*, with Janice Cairns, on Fri, also at 7.15pm.
Grand Theatre, Leeds (0532 459351).

SCOTTISH OPERA: Simon Callow's Twenties-style production of *Die Fledermaus*, conducted by John Mauceri on Fri at 7.15pm.
Theatre Royal, Glasgow (041-331 1234).

FILMS

AN ENEMY OF THE PEOPLE (U): India's master film-maker Satyajit Ray's updated version of the Ibsen play – the clash between local politics and public interest, spurred by a doctor's discovery of pollution in a town's drinking water. With Soumitra Chatterjee.
Renoir (01-837 8402), from Friday.

THE DELINQUENTS (12): Aussie phenomenon Kylie Minogue's first lunge at cinema – a routine story of defiant teenagers in the Fifties ("All their lives they were told they mustn't, they shouldn't, they can't. One year they did!") With Charlie Schlatter; directed by Chris Thomson.
Warner West End (01-439 0791), from Tues.

CANDY MOUNTAIN (15): Engaging odyssey through the American continent, with Kevin J. O'Connor as a failed rock star in search of a legendary guitar maker. With Harris Yulin, Tom Waits; written and directed in 1987 by Rudy Wurlitzer and Robert Frank.
ICA Cinema (01-930 3647), from Fri.

BRIDGE

The most annoying bridge player I ever met was a character who more or less insisted that all hands be played in no trumps, preferably in three no trumps, and ideally by himself. He regarded suit contracts, and trumps in general, with loathing and contempt, and if by some mischance he found himself in a suit contract and one of his high honours was ruffed, the look of pained injustice on his face was hideous to behold.

If one queried, however gently, his reasoning, he would turn with a smile so twisted as to be almost vertical and enquire whether one really thought that nine tricks were harder to make than 10 or 11. Difficult to argue with that, of course, especially as he was, confound it, rather a good player (and bidder) of no trump contracts. Here he is in action, sitting South.

Rubber bridge. East-West game. Dealer South.

	♠ 932 ♡ 765 ◇ KJ9765 ♣ 3	
♠ J 107 ♡ AJ1082 ◇ 3 ♣ Q1052	N W E S	♠ AKQ65 ♡ 9 ◇ 1082 ♣ 9874
	♠ 84 ♡ KQ43 ◇ AQ4 ♣ AKJ6	

W	N	E	S
—	—	—	1♣
No	1♡	No	1♠(!)
No	2♡	No	3NT
No	No	No	

From South's point of view his spade bid is not only perfectly sound, but the only bid to be made in the circumstances. Since he plans to play in three no trumps, he must deter a spade lead. If his partner jumps to four spades, the hand is probably good enough for six diamonds or six no trumps.

West led an understandable but not very imaginative heart, which gave declarer his ninth trick and the contract. He was lucky, of course – switch the defenders' hands and he goes two down at once – but he deserved his luck. He gave his side the best shot at game, at the risk of a small 100-point penalty. And even if he is found out in his little deception, he has recourse:

1 If three no trumps is doubled, he escapes into four diamonds, which is most unlikely to be doubled;

2 Even if it is doubled, he will be one down for minus 100, unless

3 The defence not only double but also defend perfectly. East leads the queen of spades, on which his partner plays the jack. After a heart and a heart ruff East can now underlead his spades to get a second heart ruff.

Now, to those who say that South's spade bid is deeply irresponsible and has no business appearing in a respectable journal, I can only say that if deception is fair in love and war, why not in bridge? It is well known that if you plan to land an army in Normandy you try to persuade the other fellow that you are really aiming for the Pas de Calais.

But no less a figure than Terence Reese has put the case for the humble no trump: "... one should not underestimate the advantage of playing borderline hands in no trump. Many more contracts that could be defeated by perfect defence are made at no trump than in a suit."

Here is a perfect example, again with the three no trump specialist sitting South.

Rubber bridge at the Reform Club. East-West game. Dealer South.

	♠ 95 ♡ K87 ◇ QJ1093 ♣ A54	
♠ KJ83 ♡ J1062 ◇ A4 ♣ K76	N W E S	♠ 10762 ♡ Q943 ◇ K5 ♣ 1093
	♠ AQ4 ♡ A5 ◇ 8762 ♣ QJ82	

W	N	E	S
—	—	—	1♣
1♠	2◇	2♣	2NT
No	3♣	No	3NT
No	No	No	

Extragavant bidding all round, but there was a reason for it. When people are waiting to cut in, clubs often have a rule that a rubber can only last so many deals. On this occasion this was the last deal, so South decided to go for a decidely borderline game.

West led a spade, which gave South a trick and a tempo. He was able to set up the diamonds before the defence could set up their hearts, and made game with two spades, two hearts, three diamonds and two clubs.

The spade lead was helpful. A heart lead beats the contract, but the defence still have to play with complete accuracy. Against a club lead declarer can set about the diamonds and eventually put West under intolerable pressure in the black suits. Even at the Reform Club. Even late at night. The only trouble is that now we'll *never* persuade the chap that there is life beyond three no trumps.

John Graham

CHESS

Sadly, Pilkington Glass has pulled out of sponsoring the final of the world championship candidates' cycle, which was due to be held in London next March. The baton has, however, been picked up with commendable speed by the Malaysian chess federation, so the match will now start in Kuala Lumpur on March 7.

Timman faces Karpov there for the right to challenge Gary Kasparov later in 1990. This will be the Dutchman's big chance. For many years now, he has been regarded as the West's leading player, and with Karpov clearly beneath his normal form in the recently concluded semis in London, Timman doubtless feels that he can win. He has already preserved his pre-eminence in the West with his victory in London over our own Jon Speelman. Nevertheless, in a match which concluded on Wednesday evening of this week in the Dutch town of Hilversum, Timman could do no better than tie 3-3 against our own Nigel Short. Nigel started disastrously with two losses but recovered brilliantly to dominate the latter half of the match and he won the best game.

White: Nigel Short; Black: Jan Timman. Petroff's Defence, KRO Match Hilversum, December 17. Game 4.

1 e4	e5	2 Nf3	Nf6
3 Nxe5	d6	4 Nf3	Nxe4
5 d4	d5	6 Bd3	Bd6
7 0-0	0-0	8 c4	c6
9 cxd5	cxd5	10 Nc3	Nxc3
11 bxc3	Bg4	12 Rb1	b6

Black is provoked into a slight, but ultimately significant, weakening of his Queen's side pawns. It would appear more natural to play 12...Qc7 which performs the triple function of defending b7, attcking c3 and threatening White's pawn on h2. However, this dream move fails tactically, eg, 12...Qc7 13 Bxh7+ Kxh7 14 Ng5+ Kg8 15 Qxg4 with advantage to White.

13 Rb5 Bc7 14 c4 dxc4

This position has occurred before in Short's games. Timman now produces a new idea which, at first sight, appears to lose material. In fact, Black's defence is based on complex tactics and comes close to succeeding.

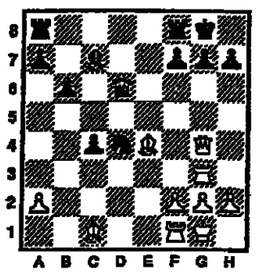
15 Be4 Nc6

If now, 16 Bxc6 Qd6 threatens both ...Qxc6 and ...Bxf3 followed by ...Qxh2 mate. Short prefers to prosecute his King's side offensive.

16 Rg5 Bxf3

This move commits Black to the loss of rook for bishop, but he hopes to gain ample compensation in terms of central control.

17 Qxf3 Qd6 18 Rg3 Nxd4 19 Qg4



This is the key move. White threatens mate on g7 as well as the Black rook on a8.

19 ... g6 20 Bxa8 Rxa8
21 Rd1 Rd8 22 Kf1 Qd5

White's 22nd move was excellent. Black suffers from a serious pin in the "d" file which cannot sensibly be broken. The point of 22 Kf1 was to prevent Black lifting the pin by means of a knight check on e2 or f3.

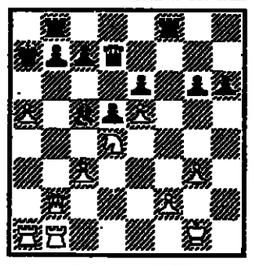
23 Re3

The crisis has been reached. White threatens 24 Rxd4 Qxd4 25 Re8+ Kg7 26 Qxd4 Rxd4 27 Bb2, in order to ward off his horror, as well as other variations based on the augmentation of the pin by Bb2, Timman must irrevocably weaken the fortifications surrounding his king.

23 ... f5 24 Qh4 f4
25 Re7 h5 26 Qf6

Black resigns

WINNING MOVE



In the diagram, White to play wins.

Send your answer on a postcard with your name and address to: *The Times* Winning Move Competition, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The first three correct answers drawn on Thursday next week will win a *Times* wallet-sized personal chess computer. The winning move will be printed in *The Times* next Saturday.

Solution to yesterday's position: White wins with 1 Bxh7+ for if 1...Kxh7 2 Rh3+ Kg8 3 Bxg7 and Black is helpless.

Solution to last Saturday's position: White wins with 1 Qxh7+.

The three winners of *The Times* personal chess computers are: T. Dymock, Alyth, Perthshire; P. R. Rawcliffe, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire; Mrs Sylvia Hayes, Bognor Regis, Sussex.

Raymond Keene

PUZZLES

MINDSCORCHER by Denis Young

The kingdom of Gufilj is short of metal and needs to save on coins. The currency is 1 Funj equals 147 Bligba. Their banknotes are worth 1 Funj each, but there are no 1 Blig pieces. Instead there are four sizes of coin, each a whole number of Bligba, but so few of them were minted that the King has decreed that no deal may involve more than four coins of whatever size. Coins given in change count as part of the total, so, for instance, to pay out three coins and receive two back is illegal.

Fortunately the Gufilji are nifty at mental arithmetic and they can pay any bill from 1 Blig upwards without breaking the law.

Can you find the value for each coin?

Trial and error could take days, but there are enough short cuts to give you an answer in less than half an hour

Solution next week

LINKWORDS by Clive Doig

Starting with TRUST, change one of the letters, and rearrange if necessary, to arrive at the answer to the next clue. Continue until you reach APPLE. Write down the letter which has been substituted each time. These letters are an anagram of a 10-letter word.

	TRUST	U
How to begin	START	—
Both clever and well-groomed	_____	—
A vagrant with a lady	_____	—
South American one-toed ungulate	_____	—
War and grease	_____	—
A command to enter data	_____	—
A long spike of flowers, flower	_____	—
Flat and not pretty, that's obvious	_____	—
A tool of reduction	_____	—
	APPLE	

The anagram is a flower

Solution next week

The Times Jumbo Sports Crossword

COMPILED BY NORMAN GILLER

The Times presents its great, traditional test of your sporting knowledge with its Jumbo Sports Christmas crossword for your attention over the holiday period.

We are offering a choice for the winner of a first-class day out for two at one of these three highlights in the next few months of sport:

The Coral Golden Hurdle Final: One of the best races of the Cheltenham National Hunt Festival, being held on Wednesday, March 14 — a champagne day out as the guests of Coral's in their private suite, with members' badges, passes for the paddock viewing area, lunch, and £50 towards travelling expenses.

The Seagram Grand National: At Aintree on Saturday, April 7 — as guests of Chivas Regal, with lunch, tea and entertainment in a Seagram marquee, as well as reserved seats and a car park pass.

The Littlewoods Challenge Cup Final: At Wembley on Sunday, April 29 — with lunch in the stadium and a VIP view of the match, plus £50 towards travelling expenses to the stadium.

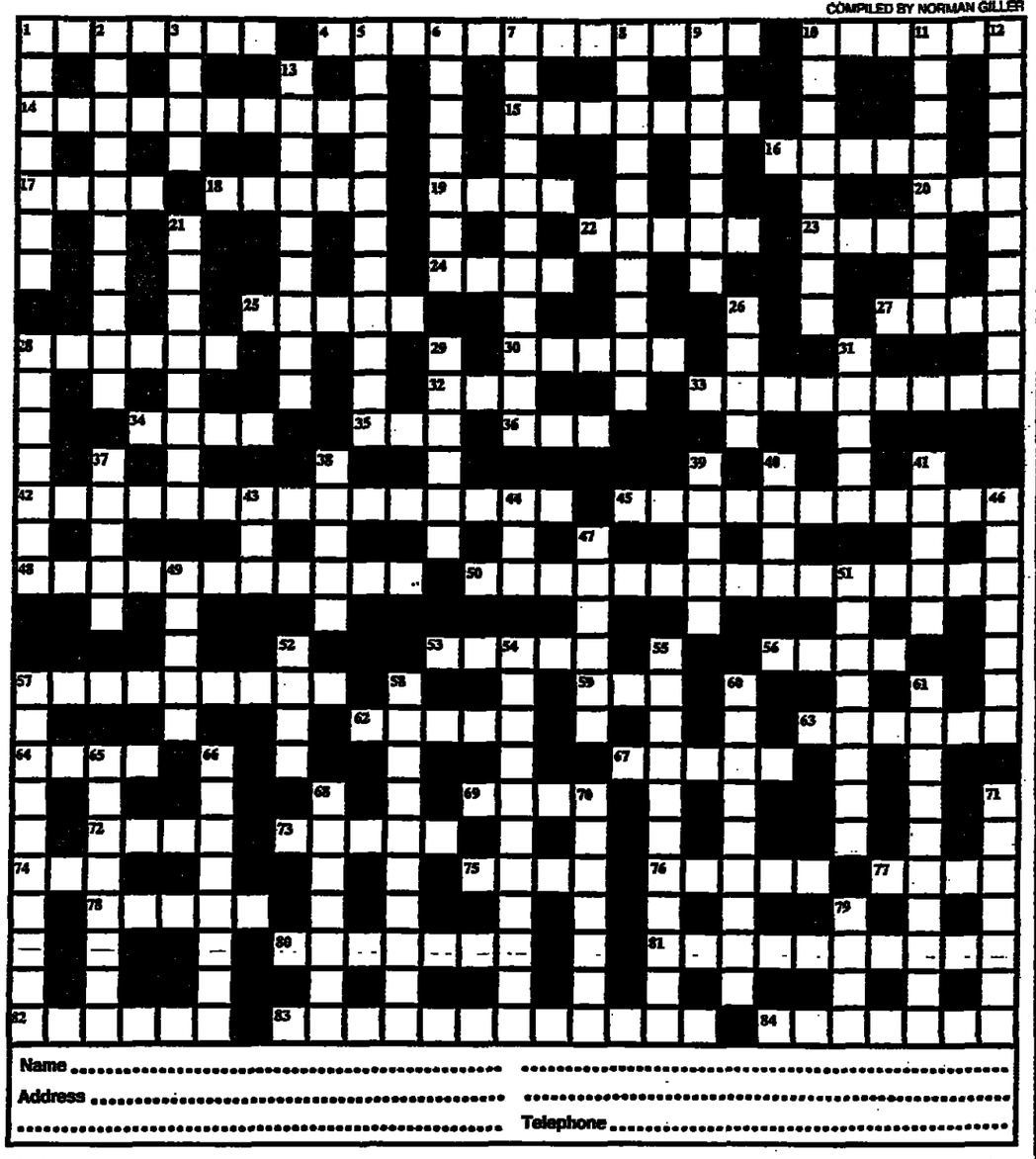
The first correct entry drawn will have priority choice from the three events, the second the next selection, and the third the remaining day out.

There are special prizes for the next 10 correct entries: a collection of three recent books by two of *The Times'* sports writers, David Miller and Simon Barnes: one by each of them in the *Sportswriter's Eye* series, published by Macdonald Queen Anne Press (£5.95), and Barnes' *A Sportswriter's Year*, published by William Heinemann (£12.95). The authors will sign the copies for the winners.

Send your completed crossword, with your name and address, by January 9 to:

Jumbo Sports Crossword, Sports Department, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN.

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY: Employees (and their relatives) of Times Newspapers Ltd, Coral, Seagram and Littlewoods are not eligible for entry. The Sports Editor's decision is final. No correspondence.



Name .....

Address .....

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CORAL BOOKMAKERS

CHIVAS REGAL 12 YEAR OLD SCOTCH WHISKY

THE LITTLEWOODS CHALLENGE CUP

ACROSS

1 It's rough for those who leave it (7).
4 A floral mirage over the fence? (6-6).
10 What Macari may throw (6).
14 A sporting type who might require signposts (4-6).
15 Sun, hair and goals at Anfield (3, 4).
16 A final one for the pot (5).
17 You may find small ones at Bisley (4).
18 Gatting has brushed up on this stroke (5).
19 He had more ups than downs at Coventry (4).
20 Shining Reardon (3).
22 A doctor of distinction (5).
23 Swimming perhaps (4).
24 Bare-knuckled fighter with mayoral connections (4).
25 On mud for a pitcher (5).
27 I wed to identify Bebb (4).
28 Place for smart batsmen (6).
30 A weighty matter for boxers and jockeys (5).
32 He was no ass (3).
33 A town most likely to produce this golfer (3, 6).
34 Maurice, who may have played to the gallery (4).
35 Initially the footballers' union (3).
36 Ten came back for this goal (3).
42 A padded way out (3, 6, 6).
45 The final shot? (11).
48 Time for swimmers to get their act together (11).
50 As one at St James's (9-6).
53 A little more work for the scorer (5).
56 Perhaps an underhanded thing to do (4).
57 Take the Dublin road (9).
59 He sounded a mathematical symbol at Molineux (3).
62 Does it grow on baize? (5).
63 Or rest to find a former world light-heavyweight champion (6).
64 A ball carrier at the Dell (4).
67 Bares all to fence (5).
69 One of a clean pair from the scrum (4).
72 Torvill and Dean, for example (4).
73 Romeo changes for a 1966 hero (5).
74 Erica, who showed up at Twickenham (3).
75 He's had a good run for Australia (4).
76 Carlos, who cashed in heavily as a lightweight (5).
77 Mighty as Wilde (4).
78 Risen boxers get this on their boots (5).
80 Fly the Atlantic to find this Derby winner (7).
81 Quick-growing vegetation, of course (4, 6).
82 Coe in a mix for the Games of '68 (6).
83 Where Royle decided he felt at home (8, 4).
84 The final place on the football map? (7).

DOWN

1 Mansell needs a farrier for a change (7).
2 Was he the Tsar of speedway? (4, 6).
3 John, who battled for Middlesex and England (4).
5 Billy McNeill was the first British skipper to lift it (8, 3).
6 Eat mash for a player who was never at home at Upton Park (7).
7 Three heads are better than one for this rugby prize (6, 5).
8 Take it by the flag (6, 4).
9 Common denominator for Ramsey and Robson (7).
10 I log Noah as unwelcome at the club (8).
11 Might its winner wear a gold cap? (4, 4).
12 A collective response to Webb Ellis (5, 5).
13 Or wounded on the wing (9).
21 A heavily-waisted Lord (8).
26 It can be taken in the dark or under floodlight (4).
28 Fred, who could be level twos (7).
29 Do defenders turn white when he is on a surge? (6).
31 They may have carried out a fatherly doctor's orders in the 1974 Cup finals (5).
37 Port of a gentleman will have inside information on a transfer deal (5).
38 He has gunned to six Olympic gold medals (5).
39 Worn for shooting (5).
40 Where on Cassius had a golden look (4).
41 I step on the slope (5).
43 Try a short Russian prince (3).
44 Sportsmen always aim to keep theirs in (3).
46 Gridiron meetings (7).
47 Not much left for fighters (6).
49 A familiar call in sport (5).
51 Wimbledon was a regular court of this king John (8).
52 He made wickets fall in Sussex (4).
54 Just champion (11).
55 An award winner on the course? (5, 6).
57 Try this for a change at the golf club (6, 4).
58 Winners often parade with it (4, 6).
60 The ultimate contest? (5, 4).
61 He had a medal in his lap in Tokyo (10).
65 Lee on a charge (8).
66 Iron a mac for a ringmaster (8).
68 He got a Chile welcome to Newcastle (7).
70 Possibly a loose ball in Kent (4, 3).
71 A man from Manassa (7).
79 He packs a lot into athletics (4).

ATHLETICS

IAAF puts re-run between Johnson and Lewis in doubt

By David Powell

The television company behind a reported attempt to stage a 100 metres race between Carl Lewis and Ben Johnson, two days after Johnson's suspension for drug abuse is completed, was warned yesterday of the difficulty it faces in gaining the approval of the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF).

John Holt, the IAAF general secretary, said: "We would stress to any country which is thinking of staging this that only certain meetings under IAAF rules can pay awards or prizes."

The television appeal of a race between Johnson, who was stripped of his Olympic title and world record last year after being found guilty of taking anabolic steroids, and Lewis, who subsequently won the gold medal, is obvious. Top Rank, the American TV company, was said to be prepared to pay both men about £2 million to race either in Seoul, where Johnson was disgraced, or Barcelona, where the next Olympics will be held in 1992.

Johnson's two-year suspension ends in September but the fact that he would not be race fit and, therefore, unlikely to make a contest of it should be the least of Top Rank's worries. "You just can't set up a meeting like this with big cash prizes," Holt added.

"You can take part in any meetings that are permitted by IAAF rules — the grand prix and the IAAF permit meetings and the European permit meetings are those where awards can be given. Any other meeting has to have special sanction of the council; so it is not automatic that any promoter can set up two million in prize-money and just bang on."

Linford Christie, the British record holder who finished third and was subsequently promoted to second in Seoul, was said to be a target for the promoter. Bob Arum, the head of Rank TV. Tony Ward, the British Amateur Athletic Board spokesman and author of Christie's recent book, said that the athlete did not wish to comment until specific details were known.

But Ward added: "It seems to me like a gimmick that has not been thought through because Ben Johnson would not have been able to prepare and would therefore go in at a considerable disadvantage. Lewis having run all summer.

"Another thing is that these head-to-heads with vast sums of money are not looked upon favourably by the other sprinters, as was indicated in Zurich in 1988 when Johnson and Lewis met in the Weltklasse meeting for supposedly large sums of money and a protest meeting was held by the other American athletes. I think the athletes will rebel against this sort of set-up.

Redmond unfit for Auckland

Derek Redmond, the fastest 400 metres runner in Britain, has been forced to withdraw from England's Commonwealth Games team. He has had a recurrence of the Achilles tendon problem which also kept him out of the Olympic Games.

In 1986, a severe hamstring pull forced him to miss the 1986 Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh.

Redmond had hoped to battle through his latest injury problem, compete in Auckland and then have surgery after the Games. After discussions with his coach, Tony Hadley, and taking medical advice, it was felt the gamble of running with an injury posed too much danger.

The 24-year-old's sequence of bad luck began at Seoul when he withdrew minutes before the heats of the 400 metres. Last July he limped out of a race in Edinburgh and, although he recovered well enough to run for Britain in the World Cup, his dismal showing in the 400 metres in Barcelona was clear evidence that all was not well.

A replacement for Redmond in the individual event is likely to be made when the team arrives in Auckland next month and come from the ranks of the 4 x 400 metres squad, which includes Wayne McDonald, Peter Crampton, and Roger Black, injury plagued himself.

Australia take all to Games

Sydney (Reuter) — All 85 members of Australia's athletics squad for the 1990 Commonwealth Games will be able to compete in Auckland, New Zealand, despite an agreement that the team should be restricted to 70.

John Coates, who was appointed by Graham Richardson, the country's Sports Minister, to arbitrate in a dispute between Australian sporting officials over the team size, said yesterday that he was satisfied everyone picked by Athletics Australia (AA) deserved a place.

But Coates condemned Australian athletics' ruling body for its "contempt" for an agreement reached in June with the Australian Commonwealth Games Association (AGCA) to limit its team to 70.

"I am satisfied that they all meet AA's published selection criteria," Coates, general manager of Australia's Olympic team in Seoul, said.

"But AA disregarded the fact that, for the Commonwealth Games, the athletes are members of the AGCA team, not the AA team.

"The AGCA may consider penalizing the AA and their officials concerned for this contempt. However, there is no case for any action which might penalize the athletes," Coates said.

MOTOR RACING

Le Mans is given a reprieve

Paris (Reuter) — The International Motor Sports Federation (FISA) has granted a reprieve to the Le Mans 24-Hour endurance race, which had been excluded from the 1990 calendar of international events.

A FISA statement said that the traditional date for the race, scheduled next year for June 16-17, would be protected until January 31. No further details were given.

The decision, following a request from the French Motor Sports Federation, should allow time for negotiations between FISA and the organizers.

The race was excluded from the World Sports Car championship earlier this month because FISA considered the Mulsanne straight too dangerous because of the high speeds attained.

The Automobile Club de l'Ouest (ACO), which organizes the Le Mans meeting, said they were surprised by FISA's sudden demand for them to introduce a chicane into the straight.

They said that, with the backing of parliamentarians, they wanted to propose legislation to end FISA's powers over the race and that, in any case, they intended to go ahead with plans to stage it in 1990.

CYCLING

Clarke hones his fitness in Belgium

Barrie Clarke, the London Open cyclo-cross champion and south of England amateur title holder, swaps Christmas with his family at Sutton for a four-day racing trip across the Channel (Peter Bryan writes). Five weeks off his bike because of a broken collarbone has delayed Clarke's build-up for the British championship at Sutton Coldfield, Birmingham, in a fortnight.

"There is a domestic racing programme over Christmas but I feel that I need sustained competition to help me peak in time for the national," he said.

Clarke races in Belgium this afternoon and again tomorrow, when he competes with Europe's top professionals in their season-long Super Prestige series.

He then travels to Luxembourg for events on Christmas Day and Boxing Day, has three days at home before returning to the Continent.

Contrasting careers of two disappointed Olympians

THE BEST OF THE BOOKS

What are the best sports books of 1989? Specialists on The Times *give their verdicts. Today: David Powell on athletics*

The Olympic careers of Sydney Wooderson and Zola Budd were not what they might have been.

Wooderson, after his emergence in 1933, developed into a potential rival to the formidable New Zealander, Jack Lovelock, for the 1936 Olympic 1,500 metres title, but an untimely injury prevented him from qualifying for the final; by the time of the next Olympics, in 1948, he had retired from the track.

Budd, like Wooderson a world record breaker and fine cross country runner, was seventh in the 3,000 metres farrago of Los Angeles 1984; four years later, burdened by political pressure, she was back in South Africa, presumed gone for ever from Olympic competition.

There, as once-only Olympians, ends the similarity in their careers. Both can be traced in contrasting books published in 1989: *Sydney Wooderson: Forgotten Champion* and *Zola: The Autobiography of Zola Budd*.

The account of Wooderson's career is the gentle Sunday morning run through the country, Budd's the Tuesday night fartlek session. At the first sign of argument, Wooderson keeps the peace. Would he have beaten Lovelock, who set a world record in the final, had he not been injured? "I think honestly that I would not have won," Wooderson says. "I think the ordeal of the big occasion would have affected me."

Budd, however, is all bitterness and regrets. She says that, when hearing that she had been granted British citizenship in 1984, "there was no rush of adrenalin, no relief . . . I saw the passport that thrust me into the world's spotlight as a symbol of my abuse". References to the *Daily Mail*, "exploitation" and "rights" recur with all the monotony of 16 400s.

We need to remind ourselves that Budd's athletic achievements were outstanding: two world cross country championships, a world 5,000 metres record and a European Cup 3,000 metres win. Sadly, the book fails to acknowledge Budd's own part in her downfall: the International Amateur Athletic Federation could not have used her appearance at a meeting in Brakpan in its attempt to force the British Amateur Athletic Board to ban her for 12 months had she not insisted on visits to South Africa.

Had she remained in Britain, "the sordid mess", as she describes the affair which precipitated her final return to Bloemfontein in May 1988, would not have happened. But it is hard not to feel some compassion for her — her elder sister died at 24, her parents divorced when she was 20 and her father was murdered this year. The happy ending, in which she talks of her marriage to Mike Pieterse, is a relief not just for her but the reader seeking a rest from the resentment and self-pity.

By contrast, the high emotions of the Wooderson book are kept for the racing. Quoting journalism of the day, David Thurlow, the author, recaptures the expectation leading up to Wooderson's 1937 mile world record at Motspur Park: "There is a dead silence. They are off! Round the first bend go Thomas and Wooderson at an alarming pace. Quite frankly I start to perspire freely through excitement. At the end of the first quarter I tremble as the announcer gives out 58.6."

To this day Wooderson remains the British runner with the greatest range — from world record holder at 800 metres to English cross country champion.

Linford Christie is trying to become Britain's greatest ever sprinter and, instead of confining to the track his challenge to the man in possession, he unfortunately sees fit to criticize Allan Wells in his book *Linford Christie: An Autobiography*.

Christie complains that Wells, the 1980 Olympic 100 metres champion, "was due to run in Zurich but he didn't appear, which was absolutely typical . . . that was the kind of man he was: he raced when he felt like it." His main moan, however, concerns "malevolent racism", illustrated by stories of harrassment, though he adds: "I have never experienced any racism in athletics."

- *Sydney Wooderson: Forgotten Champion* by David Thurlow (British Sports Association for the Disabled, £4.95).
- *Zola: The Autobiography of Zola Budd* with Hugh Eley (Partridge Press, £12.95).
- *Linford Christie: An Autobiography* with Tony Ward (Stanley Paul, £12.95).

FISHING

A bid to reach far waters

By Conrad Voss Bark

Now is the time over the holiday for all good fishermen to polish up their tackle, varnish their rods, replenish their fly boxes, send prayers to the river gods for more rain to fill our shrunken rivers, and to consider the possibility of what Winnie the Pooh might have called an expedition to distant places when spring comes.

Nothing better than brooding over the little yellow book from the Atlantic Salmon Trust to whet the appetite for distant places. Just published, it lists more than 200 owners of salmon, trout and sea trout fishing who have given a day or a week to the trust to auction on behalf of trust funds.

The list is headed by the Queen, who has given a week on the Dee. Other beats that are available range from the Fowey, in Cornwall, to Loch Hope, in Sutherland, and the guide prices for bidding range from £20 for a day on the Taw in Devon to £6,000 for a week for two rods on the Tweed. The Polly and the Piddle, the Cree and the Conon, can all be yours for a day or a week if you bid high enough.

The money, of course, goes to help the work of the trust, which is concerned with promoting research into the conservation of wild salmon and sea trout.

Among the work which is being planned or undertaken is an inquiry into the decline of the sea trout runs in parts of Northern Ireland and Scotland and radio tracking of salmon in Scotland to see if wild salmon will breed with escaped farm salmon from hatcheries and any possible changes in the migratory instinct of the hybrids.

Catalogues for the postal auction can be obtained free of charge from the director, The Atlantic Salmon Trust, Moulin, Pitlochry, Perthshire PH16 5JQ. The closing date for bids is February 5.

SPORTS BOOK OF THE WEEK

Running along the Great Wall

One of the world's wonders, the Great Wall of China, originally constructed in the third century BC, provides the inspiring backdrop for William Lindesay on his marathon journey. The characters below represent the Chinese wording of the heading

Thirsting for the adventure of a lifetime, William Lindesay set himself to run the length of the Great Wall of China. On his epic journey, he was the recipient of numerous kindnesses from ordinary Chinese families and acquired a family of his own

奔騰在長城上

羅維廉題

When some people see a mountain they have to climb it. When some see a wall they are curious about what is on the other side. But, if you see a long wall, an old wall, and you are a runner, then you want to run along it.

My brother Nicholas had his eye on Hadrian's Wall and when he made his intentions known, with more than a hint of invitation in his voice, I accepted the challenge, insisting we set a date in the near future. My experience is that unless you make a commitment, opportunities pass you by. Life seems full of people who talk about achievement, yet never do anything more adventurous than watch television.

Three months later we sheltered from a strong wind in the lee of the Roman wall near Housesteads. In just a day and a half we were having a brief taste of escapism. We talked about self-reliance and how we were concerned only with our stomachs, our feet and knowing our location. Nicholas thought of a distant relative of Hadrian's Wall.

A very distant relative indeed.

"What do you know about the Great Wall?"

"China, you mean? Not much; all I know about China is the Great Wall, Chairman Mao and chopsticks."

"But just imagine a journey along the Great Wall."

"Near impossible I should think. It's at least 1,600 kilometres long and it crosses deserts and mountains."

At the time I was more concerned with treating a couple of insipient blisters, moreover we were 40 miles from our goal.

The following morning we did reach Bowness on Solway. The concept of the wall in a marathon, where the mind battles against the body's willingness to concede defeat, is entirely appropriate. Our success in following this 80-mile wall was put into perspective as Nick photographed me holding the Ordnance Survey map, unfurled as if it were a flag of victory.

A postmark to verify our arrival was needed on the map really. The postmaster obliged and joked "Land's End to John O'Groats next?"

"More like the Great Wall of China" I quipped back.

Hadrian's Wall to the Great Wall was an ambitious graduation. But I had been trying to conceive a purposeful adventure for the past decade. Everything seemed to have been done before. Now, not only did I have the idea, I also had the opportunity, for at the age of 28 I was single with no ties. I could change the direction of my life with a letter of resignation.

I was surprised and encouraged to discover that previous journeys along the Wall had not been completed, even on horseback. Undoubtedly, now was the time to put all my resources into making the journey before anyone else did. My aim would be to eclipse all previous journeys. I would run, carrying the absolute minimum gear and depend largely on hospitality of local people for may basic needs of water, shelter, food ...

At rest my pulse rate would normally be under 50 beats per minute. Now it beeped out at 75, the alarm bells of over-tiredness; tossing and turning with restlessness and anticipation — the first piece of map now sweated, and worn to ineligibility at its fold, had almost been traversed.

Zhangye, was a safe place (access in China is divided into three categories: open, closed and forbidden) that a foreigner was permitted to visit freely.

Conveniently located as a stepping stone at the midway point in the Hexi Corridor, it was a spot in which to rest and recuperate following my first week on the run. After 270 kilometres, with a 15lb backpack, my aches and pains deserved a 24-hour recharge. Having honed myself for my next round with the Wall I was out of bed at six and had beaten the sunrise, full of anticipation of finding the major section of the Wall by nightfall.

Squads of middle school students ran around the streets, their plimsoles smacking hard on the tarmac, heads thrown back, panting and puffing, arms waving about uncontrollably. An old woman, just a couple of generations away from them in age, but an epoch away in composure, sliced the unbreathed air with gracefully deliberate sword strokes, as if repelling an unseen enemy. Like the students, I was a runner, not a fencer, yet each and every one of my strides was as purposeful as that Mandarin's sword strokes.

Though it was two months before *Da Shu* — the great heat of midsummer — the noonday sun, high in the sky, possessed a fearsome intensity.

The gently undulating desertscape, empty and desolate, lacked any object to give shadows, creating an absence of perspective. Ahead lay continuation. Distance. Limiting this panorama of bleached and shimmering ochres was a faint outline of the Longshou Shan to the north. Alert at the outset, but with eyes now grown weary with constant straining, I surveyed this desert for the Wall. Perhaps the maps were inaccurate, or my estimate of progress too optimistic. With each stride I became more defensive, for in the realm of the desert only the sun and the wind prosper ... the genuine rulers.

Sun and wind have contested above the Wall for two milleniums. The sun's rays baked the rammed wet earth to a hardness of rock during its construction. Ever since, the wind has set about trying to destroy the Wall. Howling sand storms, which convert day into premature dusk have degraded the Wall into a shadow of its former self. During the preceeding 200 kilometres barely the skeletal framework remained. Only the beacon towers still existed. Between them the flesh of the Wall had disintegrated, reunited with the surrounding sands.

In the role of detective, searching for the wind's victim, I peered towards the break of slope edging the corridor, for it was there, according to the map where the Wall would emerge.

Expectation became imagination as rock colours mirrored the subtle shades of changing sky. However, linearity of the Great Wall once seen is not soon forgotten and, much as I yearned to be reunited with the Wall, I knew it was not there.

With fatigue, my urgency and enthusiasm gradually diminished. It was only then, having sunk into an unobservant mood, that something as unmistakeable as the Wall came into view. Descending from the piedmont of the Longshou Shan was a wall so variable in condition that it appeared crenellated. In Britain, my way-finding policy is governed by the opinion that the map is always right. But out here I had less trust in a map constructed by a cartographer's interpretation of satellite photographs. Such maps were more than likely to be wrong until they proved themselves right. But if they were accurate, then the Wall would be a constant companion for some days until the next safe town of Wuwei.

For the first time since leaving Jiayuguan way-finding was simply now simply a case of following the Wall. Soon I was back in the company of two familiar routes: the Silk Road and the railway line linking the remote northwest region of Xinjiang to the rest of China. Close to what looked like a railway maintenance depot was a small shop selling cigarettes, spirits, beers and unidentifiable dried foods, and serving food in a room next door.

I waited while the cook enthusiastically planned the entry he would write in my diary and tried to cook at the same time. The eggs were burned but the effusiveness of his welcome was more than compensation.

At dusk it was time to leave the Wall, and find shelter. The peasant family I approached mistook my request for an enquiry about the distance to Shandan. Ungrudgingly I bade them farewell and stumbled back towards the wall to select a site to bivouac.

There were some hollows, almost caves, in the Wall used by shepherds and pedlars then, hearing voices, I froze. Two people were running and shouting. It was the sons of the family I had just left, begging me to return.

The boys were almost twins, looking like dwarfs in their baggy suits and adults' caps which hung over their shaved heads with such a generous overlap. Proudly they escorted me into their home to the delight of their parents.

I produced my notebook, letter of introduction and my family photograph of three generations of the Lindesay family. This last was far more captivating than any words could be. The children of the family came in for the most attention, especially the blond-haired ones, for the Chinese perceive the typical foreigner as a golden haired and blue-eyed being.

Which was my wife they quizzed; how many children? How disappointed they were when they realized I had none. "I'm only 30, too young." I joked. It was a story line I learned to change in the future. Bachelors of 30 were not common in China.

The calling of roosters gave warning of sunrise. As the sun's huge red disc edged above the horizon into the purple chill of dawn, the boys led me back to the Wall before the village was awake. We reached an irrigation channel, a swift and icy torrent, which broke the dawn silence as intrusively as its very presence in the desert. Beyond stood the more familiar intruder in these parts, spotlit along its crest by the deep red glow of the sunlight, intensified by the natural colour of the Wall itself. Like an ocean, changing hues with the sky, the Wall would project many characters. At the moment it was being particularly helpful in revealing itself, yet I remained wary of falling into a false sense of security.

Indeed, every day was filled with uncertainty, even more so when the Wall headed directly through a closed town — a place that for me, was out of bounds.

Once the attempts to cultivate the land had yielded to the desert, the condition of the Wall improved. Within the environs of the town of Shandan, it was fragmented, pitted by caves, penned by animal shelters and criss-crossed by tracks. With only the wind as its enemy it stood four and a half metres high by three in width, a monumental Wall, impossible for a man to scale.

The relief of the desert gave the Wall no need to divert from an arrow-straight course. Nothing drew one's vision away from the Wall, for there was no backcloth, only deep blue sky whitening at its edges into bleached sandy ochres blotched with white salt pans. Within this vista there were only three forms — sky, desert and the Wall. And the Wall was centre stage.

The serenity of the desert is stunning. A silence of piercing perfection, a sunlight so constant as to be a beam of a spotlight. Myself, alone on this stage. On target. Focused on the Wall. How long this has been the dream. The only dream. Right from the very moment of waking, through each stride of physical preparation. This has been my world. These are my footprints. The patience, isolation of thought and devotion is being rewarded with a landscape distanced from contemporary travellers. This is my privilege.

My maps were accurate in showing the Silk Road, now a sheet of soft and shining tarmac cutting through the Wall. Close by loomed a huge beacon tower, making passing traffic look like dinky toys in comparison.

It was time to plan the late afternoon and evening. Fengcheng village appeared too far to reach by sunset. Besides the distance, I had already sensed a gradual climb developing as the Wall began to undulate towards the Yanzhi Shan. From the map, which depicted relief by shading and contours, it appeared this range of hills was a southerly tongue of the Longshou Shan extending into the heart of the Hexi Corridor. So taking advantage of my high morale, it looked like the ideal opportunity to sleep under the stars, and with that plan in mind I diverted away from the Wall to obtain food. The best to be found was *Mantou* — one of my favourites, just coming out of the baskets at a village bakery. Incredible luck.

Back on the Wall, I was feeling relaxed and content, even with the prospect of a bread and water supper and breakfast ahead of me.

As the Wall gained height the desert acquired a scant vegetation cover. These were grazing hills for sheep and goats. The Wall became a little fragmented in these more exposed sections, though it still remains an enormous structure edging east towards the Yanzhi Shan. A cool evening breeze came off the hills into my face whilst the sun from behind cast a lengthy shadow across the gravelly trail. It was time to rest. I crossed to the northern side of the wall to escape the breeze and choose my place.

There were many small dugouts in the Wall, with rings of stones and ashen twigs scattered around, where shepherds could keep vigil on their stock. But there was too much activity nearby for me to settle for the night. Dogs were barking. The noise grew louder. Two dogs. Coming towards me. Quickly putting my rucksack back on. I grabbed four or five stones. They ran, barking and growling, kicking up the desert dust as they screeched to a halt about 20 metres away. Stealthily, on their forelegs, they stretched their necks, snarling to show over full mouths of teeth. My heart pounded out the adrenalin, the chemistry of performance, necessary to fight for survival. I feigned throwing. They knew the decoy. I pelted the leader of the two, replacing each release with another rock. In they came, working together in grizzly partnership. I kicked and threw, shouted and cursed. My dream was ending; they would strip my flesh to the bone. Never had I kicked so quick and hard, my right leg, left too, like the pistons of an engine. They backed off. The shepherd approached, yelling and throwing stones too, but in came the dogs again. It was close to disaster. Jugular veins severed. No blood transfusions — not even matching blood — hundreds of miles from help — late at night — death by dogs in the desert. I stared them in the eyes, snarled back at them, continued throwing. Slowly I walked away, continually throwing. The metres between us grew.

Out of danger my heart soared. The thought of rabies did not concern me as much as the likelihood of being live dog food. Sleeping out was no longer straightforward; I was not going to be a dogs' dinner at any price.

Still very shaky but with a good to be alive feeling, I laboured on, following the Wall through the foothills. All physical strength had long been exhausted. Nervous energy had been used in repelling the dogs.

Weak and famished, I came to Fengcheng village, and approached a cluster of smallholdings. Dogs seemed to be everywhere.

My hosts in Fengcheng were the Yin family. The weather, still bitterly cold in the evenings, meant that they preferred to confine themselves to a small room, with a stove, less than six metres square. The room was roasting. My hairy limbs and large feet came in for a good deal of attention from the children.

The little girl Yin Lanlan, perhaps eight, looked very like her mother, Liu Huiming (Children inherit their father's name and wives keep their own after marriage). She wore an orange-red jacket embroidered with peacocks, symbolic of the Empress in China. Her brother, Yin Jianxi, was a couple of years younger and looked like, well — China: a baggy dusty suit as a top layer, smiling rosy-cheeked face, shaven head, black plimsoles with ground-in dirt on his hands and ankles, and all topped with a skewwhiff, army-green cap.

These children loved "my own" children. To gain respectability I had now deemed it wise to inherit a wife and child for the journey's duration. A family man in China is regarded as having good virtue and character. The development of the Chinese character for good testifies this — for it is formed by confining *nu* (woman) with *zi* (child) to give *hao* (good). In Chinese eyes a man must have found goodness in the possession of a wife and fathering of a child.

The laying out of neatly folded multi-coloured quilts was a sign of bedtime. We lay out, five of us in a row. There was no fire but the cinders of the stove still glowed and being like sardines in a tin meant that we benefited from each others warmth. After 50 kilometres my muscles ached, joints were stiff and face burned. I was shattered. What a day of extremities it had been. Stunning Wall, demon dogs and the inheritance of a wife and child.

Bad weather arrived during the night. . blizzard conditions. If it had not been for the dogs I would now have been buried in snow. What fortune from an adversity?

There was little prospect of any rapid change in the weather. With the dry powder snow swirling around, visibility was less than 100 metres. For hour after hour the storm continued. Liu Huiming prepared noodles while the rest of us stayed covered in our quilts.

The children were captivated by my rucksack clips and the sharp click which the moulded buckles made.

Demonstrating Romanised writing in my diary encouraged the children to produce their own writing materials. In purpose-made exercise books they diligently copied out characters into boxes about an inch square that were further sub-divided into quarters so that the composition of each complex pictogram could be constructed accurately.

It was an appropriate time for Yin Lizhong to write his thoughts in my own book:

Dear Mr Will,
You came to my home and slept for one night yesterday — the 18.4.87. On the second day the weather changed and we had a whole day of snow which created difficulties for our British friend Will, who couldn't continue on his journey. He and my family slept together without asking for anything. In this short time we have built up sincere feelings of respect between our two countries. In my home, people of the two countries sat on our bed talking and laughing, eating our steamed bread and drinking green tea. My whole family felt happy and enjoyed the pleasure. What an unforgettable time! We admire the Briton's willpower and his kind easygoing attitude. He came from far away, having no fear of the rain the hot weather or the poor food of the peasants. It makes an unforgettable impression on us. We warmly welcome Will to China and are happy to have made a friend today. At least we would like to wish you success on your journey, may you receive good fortune all the way.
Your Chinese friends
Yin Lizhong, Liu Huiming, Yin Lanlan, Yin Jianxi of Fengcheng village, Laojun, Shandan, County of Gansu.

It was that kind of kindred spirit encompassed by this tribute which gave me the confidence to step out from day to day, safe in the knowledge that somewhere along the way I would be offered the rice bowl of friendship.

It was the beginning of December and time to go down to the sea. Just two years ago I had been planning this journey in all optimistic ignorance. Since then amusing evenings, whole weeks in provinces, months on the Great Wall, adding up to China years had passed. Footprints on Gobi sands had long since been covered. The most agonizing blisters had healed. The chill was out of my bones. A warmth of gladness filled my heart. Understanding had conquered ignorance and friendship had won over fear. Many peasants had watched me pass by. The Chinese had extended their hands.

The strides were counting down, reduced over the weeks from the order of millions now into the final thousands. Down Jioshan I ran, onto the plain. The Yellow Sea appeared on the horizon. Reaching it had consumed two years of my life. Not much in the history of the Wall. I was first to realise my inadequacies. But I had conquered the Great Wall.

An extract from *Alone On The Great Wall*, by William Lindesay, recently published by Hodder & Stoughton (£14.95)

YACHTING

Crews beset by problems in run-up to third stage

From Barry Pickthall, Fremantle

Lost freight, unpaid accounts and a mistaken slice with an hydraulic cutter were among the last-minute problems facing crews before the start today of the third stage of the Whitbread Round the World race.

The 3,500-mile stage from Fremantle to Auckland, New Zealand, gets under way at 2pm local time, but just how many of the 23 yachts were going to be able to reach the start line on time was still open to doubt last night.

The Creightons Naturally crew have been working against the clock to set up their mast after new rigging, which arrived late on Wednesday, had to be adapted to fit. That work was completed late in the afternoon, but then Tony Allen, one of the yacht's co-owners, was busy salvaging the terminals from the old rigging when he mistakenly sliced the bottom end off the forestay. The error led to red faces all round and a panic search for an engineer to machine a link plate to make up for the shortened wire.

On UBF Finland and the Swedish yacht, The Card, the crews are setting sail, leaving their new sails still in transit. Ludde Ingvall's UBF crew has been forced to patch up the torn and tattered mainsail from the last leg and plans to stop at Hobart to pick up the new sail before crossing the Tasman Sea. The Card is without a storm spinnaker, which has been held up in New York's Christmas rush in the same shipment as UBF's sails.

A new mainsail ordered by the cash-strapped Soviets on Fazisi has arrived, but the sailmaker was refusing to release the sail yesterday until payment could be arranged.

This was a problem shared with Patrick Tabarly's French crew on the second placed division three yacht L'Esprit de Liberté. Tabarly, who was forced to return to France after the first stage of the race in search of the yacht's promoter and sponsorship funds, found his sails had been returned to the yacht yesterday unrepaired. It has left him with no choice but to start the race with a sail wardrobe that dates back eight years, and little chance of narrowing the 15-hour lead now held by Tracy Edwards, of Great Britain, and her all-woman crew on Maiden.

Another British crew itching to set sail has been Lawrie Smith's team on Rothmans. The fourth-placed yacht has been equipped with a large wardrobe of new sails and Smith has been heartened by a race ruling issued yesterday which bars renewal of masts, other than those that break during the race.

The main mast on Steinlager 2, Peter Blake's leading New Zealand ketch, is believed to have suffered considerable stressing, with cracks appearing in many of the welds. If the damage is as serious as some crews suggest, then the 13-hour advantage she holds over Pierre Fehlmann's Swiss challenger, Merit, or indeed her 36-hour lead on Fisher & Paykel and Rothmans, could be short lived.

LEADING POSITIONS (after two legs): **Maxi division:** 1, Steinlager 2 (P Blake, NZ), 53days 2hr 21min 11sec; 2, Merit (P Fehlmann, Switz), 53:15:19:16; 3, Fisher & Paykel (G Dalton, NZ), 54:12:20:48; 4, Rothmans (L Smith, GB), 54:14:36:28; 5, The Card (R Nilson, Swe), 56:5:41:22; 6, Martela OF (M Wilkeri, Fin), 56:15:22:56; 7, Charles Jourdan (A Gabbey, Fr), 56:18:26:59; 8, Fortuna (J Santander, Sp), 57:01:42:07; 9, Fazisi (S Novak, USSR), 57:15:00:33; 10, Gatorade (G Falck, It), 57:19:02:12; 11, UBF Finland (L Ingvall, Fin), 57:19:02:57; 12, Satquote British Defender (Lt Col C Watkins, GB), 58:00:25:35; 13, Belmont Finland (H Harkimo, Fin), 58:12:19:10; 14, NCB Ireland (J English, Ire), 58:18:06:48; 15, Liverpool Enterprise (B Salmon, GB), 65:06:16:21; **Division 2:** 1, Equity & Law, (D Nauta, Neth), 63:8:26:29. **Division 3:** 1, Maiden, (T Edwards, GB), 70:11:68:25; 2, L'Esprit de Liberté, (P Tabarly, Fr), 71:03:12:58; 3, Rucanor Sport (B Dubois, Bel), 71:04:17:46; 4, Schlussel von Bremen (H Muller Roicke, WG), 72:5:53:19; 5, La Poste (D Malle, Fr), 78:11:37:49. **Cruising division:** 1, With Integrity (A Coghill, GB), 73:1:31:42; 2, Creightons Naturally (J Chittenden, GB), 74:17:44:58.

Crew switch prior to run to Hobart

From Bob Ross, Sydney

The United Kingdom team, which is leading the NorTel Southern Cross Cup series by the narrow margin of 6.5 points, is beefing up its boats for the usually rigorous Sydney to Hobart race, starting on Boxing Day, which ends the series.

Mick Cookson, of the New Zealand yard which built the boat, has completed repairs to Heaven Can Wait, skippered by Harold Cudmore, which suffered so much damage that wiseacres around the host club, the Cruising Yacht Club of Australia, have been calling her "Hobart Can Wait."

Problems have ranged from a broken mast, when a forestay fitting failed, to cockpit floor delamination when the mainsheet traveller track began to pull through the structure during the fourth race. Various other holes and breakages were caused when the crew jury-rigged a mainsheet system using other deck gear.

The other yacht chartered from the Australian owner Warren Johns, Canon Express, which is skippered by Eddie Warden Owen, has also had a delamination problem with its deck.

The team manager Bill Edgerton said yesterday: "The first thing to worry about is getting to Hobart. The second thing is winning. I believe both Heaven Can Wait and Canon Express are now strong enough to get there. But, with each placing worth five points, it is going to be close."

In another move to strengthen the team for the 630 nautical miles to Hobart, Jerry Richards, who crewed on Jamarella in Britain's Admiral's Cup win this year, will move from Heaven Can Wait to Canon Express. It is felt that Warden Owen, whose tactical and steering skills have lifted the boat to some very consistent placings, could do with a bit of a hand for the big one.

TEAM TOTALS: United Kingdom, 469.5 pts; New South Wales, 463; Hong Kong, 394.5; Australia, 389.5; Western Australia, 383; Victoria, 312; USSR, 91.5.

Champion in form for Bonanza Boy

By Michael Seely
Racing Correspondent

Peter Scudamore continued on his inexorable way at Uttoxeter's pre-Christmas meeting yesterday. On a sunny, mild afternoon the champion jockey lifted his season's total to 103 by landing a short-priced double on Black Humour and Sire Nantais.

Black Humour, an impressive 12 lengths winner of the Centurion Park Novices Hurdle, gave Charlie Brooks his 27th winner of the season maintaining the trainer's strike rate of nearly 40 per cent.

Sire Nantais, who despite some sketchy jumping, had little difficulty in landing the odds of 5-4 laid on the French bred five-year-old in the Concord Business Novices Chase with winner No 104 of the season for the still all-conquering Martin Pipe.

Black Humour is the last offspring of Artiste Gaye, that remarkable mare, who produced Gaye Brief, the 1983 champion hurdler, Gaye Chance and Royal Gaye among numerous other winners.

Brooks was spending the day in the south of France at Cagnes-sur-Mer, supervising the schooling of All Jeff, who is due to run in a £15,000 hurdle on Wednesday.

In the trainer's absence Joanna Winter was in charge at Uttoxeter. "Black Humour is still very weak," she said. "We won't be too ambitious with him this year as his future obviously lies over fences."

Excitement is in the air at Uplands, as Celtic Shot, still priced at a tempting 25-1 for the Cheltenham Gold Cup, will attempt his second race over fences in the Wayward Lad Novices Chase at Kempton on Boxing Day. "We wouldn't have been frightened of The Proclamation over 2½ miles even if he had been running," she said, "Celtic Shot has come on by stones since Haydock."

The novices' chase, for five-year-olds only, gave a dramatic example of how difficult it is to win races even with so much sport in store over the holiday. Skinhill, the eight lengths runner-up, won two of his last three races over hurdles last season, but never looked like troubling Sire Nantais, already a winner over fences in France.

"That was a pretty good effort first time over fences," said Tim Thomson Jones. "He is lazy and will be much better for that. I might try and win a little heat with him first. But there's a valuable novices chase at Ascot on Victor Chandler Day."

Peter Scudamore jumping clear to a 12-length victory on Black Humour in the Centurion Park Novices Hurdle at Uttoxeter

Confidence is obviously high in the Pipe camp that Bonanza Boy is going to make a bold bid to repeat last year's win in this afternoon's Welsh National. Pipe was not at Uttoxeter, but Scudamore said:"He's going to take a lot of beating. I'm worried about the big weight, but he'll love the track, the distance and the going. And there's nothing in the race with as good a chance at the weights as Gainsay had when we beat him in the *Racing Post* Chase last year."

With The Thinker withdrawn because of the soft going, Bonanza Boy is now 5-2 favourite with the sponsors, followed by Ghofar at 3-1. Corals then go 8-1 Remedy The Malady, 9-1 Conclusive, 10-1 Cool Ground. Charter Hardware, Mandarin's selection, is a 14-1 chance.

Scudamore's luck finally ran out when Wolfhangar was pulled up in the Festival Park Handicap, the jockey making an acrobatic recovery to stay in the saddle after a blunder at the third fence from home.

In the most dramatic finish of the afternoon Steve Smith Eccles excelled himself when driving Tom Caxton past Royal Cracker and Goldfinger in the final strides to win by a head.

"That was the first time Steve's ridden him," said Jeff King. "He did well as Tom Caxton runs in snatches. He's like most of us when we're getting on, he thinks a bit too much."

Finally, on the King George VI Chase front, Desert Orchid has now hardened to 7-4 on as the nation's idol prepares for his attempt to equal Wayward Lad's record of winning the Boxing Day feature for the third time. Barnbrook Again is a 4-1 chance with both Pegwell Bay and Yahoo on offer at 6-1.

However, opinion is by no means unanimous at Whitsbury. "Barnbrook Again is also a very high-class horse," said Chris Hill, David Elsworth's secretary. "I'm not saying that he'll beat Desert Orchid, particularly if it comes to a drawn-out battle over the last three fences. But it's going to be very interesting indeed."

Llewellyn looking to conquer nation's idol on Pegwell Bay

By Christopher Goulding

Carl Llewellyn, Pegwell Bay's rider, will be among a minority when he hopes to foil Desert Orchid's attempt to win the King George VI Chase for a third time at Kempton Park on Boxing Day.

Pegwell Bay and Llewellyn are among the principal antagonists of the nation's favourite grey. "I have tremendous respect for Desert Orchid and love him like everyone else," enthuses Llewellyn. "But it would be nice to beat him. To say you have conquered such a horse is an achievement to cherish."

Unlike Desert Orchid, who will be participating for the fourth time, Llewellyn and Pegwell Bay will both be competing in the three-mile chase for the first time.

For Llewellyn it will be an occasion when seven years of racing involvement will be compressed into six exacting minutes.

After countless forays on no-hopers, that first winner arrived after 80 attempts with Starjestic at Wolverhampton in March 1986.

But the 24-year-old from Pembrokeshire will not be overawed by his responsibility and declares himself ready for anything. After all, he has survived two Grand Nationals and a Cheltenham Gold Cup.

As first jockey to Tim Forster, an unsurpassed master at producing foremost steeplechasers, including three Grand National heroes and the winner of the King George in 1976 with Royal Marshall II, Llewellyn is

Carl Llewellyn: first ride in Kempton's big chase

acutely aware of racing's contrasting fortunes.

Last season, a broken arm robbed him of two important Cheltenham victories with Pegwell Bay. Farther anguish came after parting company with Smart Tar in the Grand National.

Such misfortune is irretrievable. But unlike in the past when jockeys left the game with only cigarette boxes to shown for their efforts, Llewellyn is aware of the unpredictable nature of the sport: "I have a share in a pub and have become involved in corporate entertainment. In this game you have to look to the future as you're finished as a rider soon after reaching 30."

Llewellyn is not harbouring a secret plot in his attempt to beat Desert Orchid. "My horse obviously has to improve, but I feel he has, and is also stronger. As a 10-year-old it's hard to envisage Desert Orchid improving. However, there will be others to beat as well as Desert Orchid.

"We have met him twice before. At Sandown we went down by threequarters of a length when second and in last season's Cheltenham Gold Cup my horse could not handle the heavy ground."

Pegwell Bay, successful in nine of his 21 races, was bought out of a field by his trainer and is the cheapest horse Forster has purchased. His dam, Multigrey, gave John Francome his first winner at Worcester.

The athletic bay now carries the yellow and black spots of Major Keith Barlow and derives his name from his owner's penchant for golf. The Royal Sandwich golf course overlooks Pegwell Bay.

"He is not over-big," explains Llewellyn. "If he was human he would be described as a workaholic. Everything he does he loves. He is very strong and incredibly brave.

"I am not worried about the course, Kempton is a lovely track to ride. The fences are big with plenty of width. He may be better going left-handed as he sometimes jumps that way. We shall be up with the leaders as I don't have any other choice."

Llewellyn's dilemma, conserving his mount's energy, is likely to be helped by Desert Orchid's flamboyant front-running tactics. "Ideally, it would be nice to drop in behind the leaders and race in fourth place. My horse will tell me what to do as it's in his hands. I can only try and help."

Jockeys escape in road collision

Brendan Powell, Hywel Davies and Mark Richards had a lucky escape yesterday when they were involved in a road accident as they were travelling to Ludlow races.

Their car was written off when a lorry ran into the back of it, but all three plan to be in action today, and Powell confirmed himself fit to partner Ghofar in the Coral Welsh National at Chepstow.

Powell, who was driving, was stuck in a traffic jam outside Cirencester when the accident happened.

"A lorry came round the corner, could not stop in time and ran into the back of us. My car was knocked off the road and into a ditch. We were very lucky," Powell said yesterday.

"Mark was sitting in the back and got the worst of the impact and Hywel rapped his shins, but we will all be back in action tomorrow. I will have to hire a car to get to Chepstow."

Powell, Davies and Richards all have booked rides at the Welsh course.

Threat averted to gallops

The threat to Toby Balding's Hampshire gallops from a proposed waste tip has been averted (Phil McLennan writes).

A spokesman for Hampshire County Council said yesterday: "The application was not due to be determined until March 5 but Dunnings Plant Hire, the company which made it, has gone into receivership."

Balding had stated on more than one occasion that he would leave his Fyfield stable if the tip were given the go-ahead.

The dual Grand National winning trainer was concerned about the possible dumping of low-level toxic waste near to his Kimble gallops in the picturesque Test valley.

Ludlow results

Going: good

12.30 (2m hdle) 1, **RUN TO FORM** (M Bowlby, 5-2 fav); 2, Olveston (S Earle, 7-2); 3, Squire Lamb (T Morgan, 16-1). ALSO RAN: 7-2 Forced March (5th), 10 Nick The Dreamer, 12 Just Patrimony (4th), Leander Lad, 14 Alchemic, 33 All Afloat, Incidental, Ryton Guard, Tyrian King, Zingaro Boy, 50 Little Man, Mount Patrick, Annicombe Run (6th), Gavenny Girl. 17 ran. NR: Hannah Millie Nick. 2½l, 1½l, 2l, 4l, 1l. Mrs J Pitman at Lambourn. Tote: £3.30; £1.70, £1.70, £3.80. DF: £9.70. CSF: £11.96.

1.0 (2m hdle) 1, **MARKET LEADER** (B Dowling, 10-1); 2, Traveller's Trip (J Railton, 50-1); 3, Banbridge (R Dunwoody, 9-4). ALSO RAN: 6-4 fav Nearly Medina (4th), 5-2 Lavrosky (ur). 5 ran. 8l, 8l, 2½l. R Lee at Presteigne. Tote: £5.70; £2.50, £6.20. DF: £39.20. CSF: £128.30. After a stewards' inquiry, result stood.

1.30 (2m hdle) 1, **RUSTY ROC** (W Knox, 10-1); 2, Valtaki (P Leech, 33-1); 3, Hot Company (D J Burchell, 100-30 fav); 4, Directly (J Frost, 20-1). ALSO RAN: 9-2 Fairfields Cone, 9 Mountabor (5th), 11 Frendly Fellow, Stayhar Gold, 14 Owen (6th), Emrys, 16 Yozzer Hughes, 20 Star Of Ireland (pu), 25 Billion Melody, Stricly Business, 33 Mists Of Time, Copper Streak, Celtic Dove, Indamu, Tashonya, Penlyne's Pride. 20 ran. 1½l, 12l, 1l, 3l, nk. M Davies at Abergavenny. Tote: £12.80; £3.40, £53.80, £1.30, £5.00. DF: £129.80. CSF: £285.18. Tricast: £1,199.13.

2.0 (2m hdle) 1, **BASIC FUN** (D Byrne, 13-2); 2, White River (P Barnard, 10-1); 3, Pontevecchio Bella (A Juckes, 4-1). ALSO RAN: 5-2 fav Rushluan, 8 Longghurst (4th), Punchbag, 10 Lady Lax (5th), 14 Golfer's Sunrise, 20 Cracker D'Or, 33 Some Concern, High Pokey, 50 Carjujen, Creetown Sally, Native Rose, Monsieur Tourbiere, Young Aspiration (f), High Tilt (pu), Opal Surprise (6th). 18 ran. NR: Faye's Delight, Tarlogie. 5l, ¾l, nk, 10l, ½l. J Spearing at Alcester. Tote: £7.70; £2.20, £5.20, £1.90. DF: £40.00. CSF: £67.07. Bought in 5,600gns.

2.30 (3m ch) 1, **TENNFORES** (J White, 6-1 jt-fav); 2, Randolph Crescent (R Dunwoody, 12-1); 3, Royal Battery (S Earle, 33-1). ALSO RAN: 6 jt-fav Capell Cone (4th), 13-2 Bevard Ash (f), Lauderdale Lad (f), Express Air (ur), 8 On Reflection (5th), 12 Paddy's Pond (f), Propius (pu), Sunday For Monday, 50 Daybrook Verb (f), Dingle Jack (6th), Hill Of Barra. 16 ran. Hd, 3l, sh hd, 2l, dist. N Henderson at Lambourn. Tote: £8.60; £4.30, £3.80, £3.70. DF: £18.10. CSF: £88.87.

3.0 (2m 4f ch) 1, **I LIKE IT A LOT** (D Tegg, 11-2); 2, Young Nicholas (W Knox, 33-1); 3, Celtic Walk (C Llewellyn, 25-1); 4, Mandraid Shuffle (J White, 13-8 fav). ALSO RAN: 5 Ronans Birthday (5th), 9 Monumental Lad (f), 10 London Windows (pu), 16 Top O' Th' Green (pu), Rhodbridge (6th), 20 Tropical Mist (pu), Trust The Gypsy, 33 The Doormaker (f), Galterio, French Habitat (pu), Master Attorney, Cloud Chaser. 16 ran. 12l, 6l, sh hd, 12l, 3l. R Lee at Presteigne. Tote: £6.00; £1.70, £4.10, £3.80, £1.10. DF (first or second with any other): £1.90. CSF: £153.99. Tricast: £3,716.84.

3.30 (2m flat) 1, **TREFELYN CONE** (M Foster, 8-11 fav); 2, Crystal Bear (J Railton, 10-1); 3, Carewag (Mr E Bailey, 33-1). ALSO RAN: 9-2 Patrol Leader (4th), 15-2 Monday Club (6th), 10 Mister Gabo, 20 Harbours Well (5th), 25 Moon Run, 33 Monasira, Ruths Pride, 50 Balinger Bill, Cool Move, K C's Dancer, Le Relish, Ocean Link, Beau Croft Lass. 16 ran. NR: Corry's Caper, Ruler's Gold. 8l, 15l, 2½l, 8l, ¾l. M Pipe at Wellington. Tote: £1.90; £1.60, £5.80, £6.50. DF: £13.80. CSF: £10.25.

Placepot: £536.30.

Hexham

Going: good

12.15 (2m ch) 1, **GALA LOCH** (C Grant, 8-1); 2, Gemaro (C Kellett, 8-1); 3, Lingham Duke (A Orkney, 25-1). ALSO RAN: 2 fav Ainsty Fox (f), 9-4 Palm Lad (carried out), 8 Dark Record (ur), 10 Western Revival (4th), 16 Bodo (f), 25 Castle Pan (5th). 9 ran. NR: Dunloring. 6l, 8l, ½l, dist. S Payne at Carlisle. Tote: £8.70; £1.60, £2.00, £17.60. DF: £32.10. CSF: £64.54. Tricast: £1,377.00.

12.45 (2m hdle) 1, **LEIGH BOY** (M Hammond, 6-1); 2, Icarus (L Wyer, 2-1); 3, Third Son (M Hill, 6-4 fav). ALSO RAN: 8 Kosciosko (4th), 12 Furry Queen (pu), 14 Damanour (bd), 16 Trip The Daisey (f), 20 Gusby (6th), 33 Wytherstone (5th). 9 ran. NR: Houghton. 1½l, sh hd, 20l, 15l, 25l. G Moore at Middleham. Tote: £8.20; £1.40, £1.20, £1.10. DF: £12.70. CSF: £19.05.

1.15 (3m ch) 1, **TARTAN TEMPEST** (G McCourt, 7-1); 2, Aston Express (M Hammond, 11-4); 3, River House (C Grant, 5-4 fav). ALSO RAN: 4 Green Archer (5th), 14 Into The Mystic (6th), 16 Waterdale, 25 Berlin Or Bust (pu), 33 Ten Of Clubs, Traprain Law (4th), Jack Dwyer (ur), Casino Run (f), 50 Hoddam Brig (pu), Majestic Ride (pu), Talk No Trash, Cherry Side, Linden Brig (pu). 16 ran. NR: Oxford Place. 12l, ¾l, 4l, ¾l, 20l. G Richards at Greystoke. Tote: £10.80; £2.80, £1.80, £1.10. DF: £15.60. CSF: £28.61.

1.45 (2m hdle) 1, **EYE BEE AITCH** (K Doolan, 8-1); 2, Old Dutch Holborn (L Wyer, 4-9 fav); 3, Starchy Blake (K Jones, 16-1). ALSO RAN: 4 Ballymore Park (ur), 8 Bush Maid (4th), 10 Daily Quest (pu), 25 Mercia Gold, Quel Eclat (5th), April's Baby (6th). 9 ran. NR: Oriental Express, Steady State, Indispensable. 12l, 8l, 16l, dist, 5l. W Storey at Consett. Tote: £9.00; £2.30, £1.30, £2.50. DF: £2.90. CSF: £13.80. No bid.

2.15 (2m 4f ch) 1, **OISINS CASTLE** (B Storey, 7-1); 2, Pure Money (Mr P Doyle, 4-5 fav); 3, Carousel Rocket (L Wyer, 5-1). ALSO RAN: 5-2 General Advance (pu). 4 ran. 8l, 15l. J Johnson at Crook. Tote: £5.40. DF: £3.50. CSF: £13.07.

2.45 (2m 4f hdle) 1, **WATERTIGHT** (M Hammond, 2-1 fav); 2, Mirage Dancer (R Crank, 9-1); 3, Rose Tableau (G McCourt, 11-2). ALSO RAN: 3 Eastern Minstrel (5th), 15-2 Clippers Dream, 9 Introvert (4th), 20 Muck Or Money (6th), Bay Chaser, Soybean, 25 Monkey Hunter, Verona Chief. 11 ran. 1l, 2l, 3l, 4l, 1l. G Moore at Middleham. Tote: £3.70; £1.40, £2.30, £1.60. DF: £10.00. CSF: £21.05. Tricast: £83.22.

Placepot: not won (Pool of £1,186.75 carried forward to Chepstow today).

Uttoxeter

Going: good to soft (soft patches)

11.45 (2m 4f hdle) 1, **Invasion** (J J Quinn, Evens fav); 2, Montagnard (7-1); 3, Daily Sport Soon (4-1). 15 ran. NR: Sweet Niamh. 2½l, 20l. J Glover. Tote: £2.10; £1.30, £2.50, £1.50. DF: £10.40. CSF: £8.88.

12.15 (2m hdle) 1, **Black Humour** (P Scudamore, 13-8 fav); 2, Britannia Bell (25-1); 3, Generous Scot (12-1). 16 ran. 12l, 2½l. C Brooks. Tote: £2.50; £1.80, £3.00, £1.60. DF: £19.00. CSF: £43.18.

12.45 (2m 4f ch) 1, **Sire Nantais** (P Scudamore, 4-5 fav; Michael Seely's nap); 2, Skinnhill (9-1); 3, Ardra Duke (20-1). 13 ran. NR: But And Ben. 8l, 4l. M Pipe. Tote: £1.80; £1.30, £1.40, £2.00. DF: £5.80. CSF: £9.43.

1.15 (2m hdle) 1, **Cosmic Flight** (S Davies, 13-2); 2, Old Deer Park (14-1); 3, Ullswater (5-2 fav). 17 ran. 10l, 4l. D Burchell. Tote: £7.30; £1.90, £4.20, £1.60. DF: £146.70. CSF: £95.88.

1.45 (2m ch) 1, **Tom Caxton** (S Smith Eccles, 5-1); 2, Royal Cracker (7-2); 3, Goldfinger (50-1). Wolfhanger Evens fav. 8 ran. Hd, ¾l. J King. Tote: £5.20; £2.50, £1.50. DF: £7.90. CSF: £20.93. After a stewards' inquiry, the result stood.

2.15 (2m 4f hdle) 1, **General Highway** (M Lynch, 9-2); 2, Mossgara (7-4 fav); 3, Viridian (50-1). 18 ran. 25l, 7l. J Chugg. Tote: £8.80; £2.30, £1.40, £43.60. DF: £5.50. CSF: £12.72.

2.45 (3m 2f ch) 1, **Mister Hartigan** (N Williamson, 9-1); 2, Mount Oliver (5-2 fav); 3, Mithras (5-1). 11 ran. 3l, 3l. J Edwards. Tote: £9.80; £3.50, £1.60, £2.30. DF: £10.60. CSF: £29.25. Tricast: £113.73.

3.15 (2m flat) 1, **Dalby Dash** (Gary Lyons, 7-1); 2, Baggrave Lad (5-1); 3, Secret Life (25-1). Always Away 5-2 fav. 15 ran. NR: Pop Abroad. 10l, 10l. B McMahon. Tote: £8.80; £3.40, £1.20, £5.60. DF: £17.40. CSF: £48.25.

Placepot: £45.40.

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TODAY'S FIXTURES

3.0 unless stated

Barclays League
First division
Liverpool v Manchester Utd

Scottish B and Q League
Premier division
Dundee Utd v Motherwell
Rangers v St Mirren

First division
Alloa v Forfar
Meadowbank v Hamilton
Morton v Raith

Second division
Dumbarton v Brechin
E Stirling v Queen's Pk
Kilmarnock v Arbroath
Montrose v Cowdenbeath
Queen of Sth v Berwick
Stenhousemuir v E Fife
Stirling v Stranraer

SKOL NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Alnwick v Newcastle Blue Star; Billingham Town v Tow Law (2.0); Brandon v Guisborough; Consett v Spennymoor; Durham v Whitby; Easington v South Bank; Ferryhill v Shildon; Gretna v Billingham Syn; Seaham Red Star v Stockton; Whickham v Blyth Spartans (2.0).

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Sheffield v Bridlington Town; Belper v Hatfield; Grimethorpe v North Ferriby; Ossett Albion v Denaby; Sutton v Pontefract; Thackley v North Shields; Armthorpe v Harrogate RW; Bridlington Trinity v Hallam.

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Swanage and Herston v Torrington.

BASS NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Ashton v Nantwich; Atherton LR v Leyland Motors (2.0); Colwyn Bay v Salford (2.0); Darwen v Chadderton; Flixton v Bootle, Knowsley v Burscough; Vauxhall GM v St Helens; Warrington v Clitheroe (2.0).

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Midland division: Leicester v Stourbridge; Sutton Coldfield v Spalding; Southern division: Bashley v Burnham; Canterbury v Trowbridge.

VAUXHALL LEAGUE: Premier division: Aylesbury v Carshalton. First division: Dorking v Wivenhoe; Hitchin v Lewes; Uxbridge v Kingsbury. Second division north: Berkhamsted v Finchley. Second division south: Banstead v Chertsey; Newbury v Hungerford. AC Delco Cup: Woking v Barking.

FA VASE: Third round: Chard v Dawlish; Harrogate v Chester Le Street; Guiseley v Northallerton; Peterlee Newtown v Farsley; Paulton v Yate.

IRISH LEAGUE: Budweiser Cup: First round, first leg: Ballymena v Portadown (3.30); Distillery v Newry (3.30); Larne v Glenavon, Linfield v Bangor; Omagh Town v Coleraine (12.0).

ABACUS LEAGUE: Aberystwyth v Ammanford; Brecon v Ton Pentre; Cymbran v Pembroke; Llanelli v Haverfordwest; Maesteg v AFC Cardiff; Pontllanfraith v Briton Ferry.

RUGBY UNION

Tour match
England B v Soviet Union (Northampton RFC, 2.30).

McEwan's Inter-District Championship
North and Midlands v Anglo Scots (Dunfermline, 2.0).
South v Glasgow (Melrose, 2.0).

Under-21 District Championship
North and Midlands v Anglo Scots (Dunfermline).

Club matches
(3.0 unless stated)
Aberavon v Maesteg.
Alnwick v Kelso.
Askeans v Maidstone (2.30).
Aspatria v Gala.
Bath v Blackheath.
Blaydon v Langholm.
Bridgend v Cardiff.
Broughton Pk v Vale of Lune (2.30).
Cross Keys v Tredegar.
Ebbw Vale v Coventry.
Fylde v Waterloo (2.15).
Gosforth v Middlesbrough (2.15).
Harlequins v Richmond.
Hartlepool v Hawick.
Huddersfield v Sheffield (2.15).
Jed-Forest v Glasgow High (2.0).
Kendal v Melrose.
L Welsh v Welsh Students (2.15).
Met Police v Bedford.
Morley v Bradford (2.30).
Moseley v Swansea.
Newport v Gloucester.
Pontypool v Abertillery.
Pontypridd v Merthyr.
Preston G v Rugby (2.15).
Rockcliffe v Berwick.
Roundhay v Orrell (2.15).
Saracens v Sale (2.15).
Wasps v Rosslyn Park.
W Hartlepool v Gateshead (2.30).

Schweppes Welsh Cup
Fourth round
Newbridge v Llantrisant (2.30).
Senghenydd v Llanelli (2.30).
Ystrad Rhondda v Neath (2.30).

AYSHIRE LEAGUE: Carrick v Irvine.

SCOTLAND: Selkirk v Kilmarnock; Annan v Giggar; Earlston v Duns; Hawick YM v St Boswells; Hawick Trades v Hawick Linden; Gala Star v Boroughmuir 2nd; Walkerburn v Musselburgh 2nd. Highland v Highland District League; Gordonians v Perthshire; Moray v Ganoch; Aberdeenshire v Dyce; Aberdeen Wanderers-Acads v Mackie Acad FP; Granite City v Aboyne; Huntly v Peterhead; Craig Dunain v Lochaber; Wigtownshire v Kilmarnock 2nd; East Kilbride v Glasgow High-Kelvinside 2nd; Drumpellier v Dunfermline 2nd; Hillhead-Jordanhill 2nd v Waysiders; Strathclyde Police v Hutcheson's 2nd; Lenzie 2nd v Lanark; Ayr A1 v Newton Stewart; Uddingston v Glasgow Acads 3rd; Whitecraigs v Hillhead-Jordanhill 2A; Irvine 3rd v Linwood; Kirkcaldy v Aberdeen GSFP; Dundee HSFP v Glenrothes; Howe of Fife v Madras College FP; Alloa Cumbernauld; Carnoustie HSFP v Stobswell FP; Montrose v Strathmore; Hilloots v Glasgow Acads 2nd; Kirkcaldy 2nd v Rosyth and District; Waid Academy FP v Howe of Fife 2nd; Perthshire 2nd v Blairgowrie HSFP; Panmure 2nd v Brechin HSFP, Kinross v Alloa 2nd; Stirling County v Dunfermline; West of Scotland v Hillhead-Jordanhill; Glasgow Acads v Currie; Ayr v Clarkston, Dalziel HSFP v Leith Acads; Cambuslang v Trinity Acads; Achesons' v Ardrossan Acads; Paisley v Marr; Stewarthy v Dumphries; Greenock Wanderers v Clydebank; Cumnock v Old Aloysians; Helensburgh v Vale of Leven; Bute v Strathaven; Dumbarton v Strathendrick; Hyndland FP v Allan Glen's; Shawlands v Craigelea.

LONDON AND SOUTH EAST: Bisley Office Equipment Southern Merit Table: Henley v Marlow. Tandem Seven Counties Merit Table: Askeans v Maidstone; Oxford v Southend; Sidcup v Thurrock. ADT Auctions CLOB Merit Table: Haberdashers v OMT; Old Caterhamians v Old Pelhamians. Club matches: Alton v Windsor; Amber Valley v Moderns; Andover v Farnham; Bacavians v Datchworth; BA Weybridge v Old Bevonians; Beckenham v Metropolitan Police Four Div; Bishop's Stortford v Barnet; Bognor v Cranleigh; Bracknell v Staines; Cheshunt v Hertford; Chinnor v Oxford Old Boys; Deal Wanderers v Betteshanger Colliery; Gillingham v Sevenoaks; Gosport v Havant; Guildford and Godalming v Dorking; Harlow v Braintree; Ilford v Upminster; Ipswich YMCA v Colchester; Kingsburians v Finchley; Letchworth v Mill Hill; Lowestoft v Norwich; Medway v Folkestone; Mitcham v East Grinstead; Old Albanian v Tabard; Old Alleynians v Warlingham; Old Blues v High Wycombe; Old Brentwoods v Southend Priors; Old Brockleians v Old Dunstonians; Old Epsomians v Bank of England; Old Freemans v KCS Old Boys; Old Gaytonians v Old Emanuel; Old Gravesendians v Thames Poly; Old Meadonians v Wandsworthians; Old Reedonians v Raynes Park; Old Tiffinian v Old Midwhirgituans; Old Walcountians v Old Colfeians; Old Whitgiftians v Eastbourne; Old Wimbledonians v Old Paulines; Park House v Old Elthamians; Portsmouth v Petersfield; Purley v Tunbridge Wells; Reading v Camberley; Reigate v Effingham; Richmond Thamesians v Old Hamptonians; Royston v Saffron Walden; St Albans v Roxeth Manor Old Boys; St Neots v Cantabrigian; Sevenoaks v Gillingham Anchorians; Sittingbourne v Erith; Sutton and Epsom v Old Rutlishians; The Redingsenians v Maidenhead; Tonbridge v Crowborough; Tring v Welwyn; Twickenham v University Vandals; UCS Old Boys v Old Tottonians; Warlingham v Old Alleynians; Wembley v Old Elizabethans; Woodford v Bancroft; Worthing v Eastleigh.

MIDLANDS: All Spartans v Meden Vale; Amber Valley v Moderns; Ashbourne v Uttoxeter; Aston OE v Spartans; Aylestonians v Corby; Aylestone St James v Lutterworth; Bedford Athletic v Olney; Bedford Wanderers v Long Buckby; Bedworth v Atherstone; Berkswell and Balsall v Alcester; Biggleswade v Northampton OS; Birchfield v Witton; Birmingham and Solihull v Stoke; Birmingham Civil Service v Birmingham City Officials; Birmingham Welsh v Thimblemill; Bournville v Wednesbury; Birstall v Anstey; Bridgnorth v Ludlow; Broad Street v Old Laurentians; Bromsgrove v Leamington; Buxton v Mosborough; Claverdon v Old Moseleians; Coalville v Five Ways OE; Coventry Saracens v Northampton BBOB; Coventry Technical College v Shottery; Dudley Kingswinford v Worcester; Earlsdon v Pinley; East Leake v Bingham; Evesham v Banbury; Glen Parva v South Wigston; Handsworth v Shrewsbury; Hinckley v Derby; Kenilworth v Willenhall; Kettering v Burton; Lichfield v Tamworth; Lincoln v North Kesteven; Longlevens v Malvern; Luton v Leighton Buzzard; Manor Park v Rugby St Andrews; Mansfield v Stoneygate; Matlock v Chesterfield; Melton Mowbray v Ilkeston; Newark v Market Rasen; Newcastle [Staffs] v Woodrush; Newport v Old Halesonians; Nottingham Casuals v Boots; Nuneaton OE v Lutterworth; Oadby Wyggestonians v Westleigh; Old Leamingtonians v Dixonians; Old Yardleians v Droitwich; OldWheatlyans v Old Coventrians; Redditch v Silhillians; Rubery Owen v Wheaton Aston; Selly Oak v GEC Coventry; Sheffield Tigers v East Retford; Southam v Daventry; Southwell v Long Eaton; Stamford v Wellingborough OG; Standard v Coventrians; Stewarts & Lloyds v Belgrave; Stoke on Trent v Solihull; Stratford v Shipston on Stour; Sutton Coldfield v Kidderminster; Telford v Market Drayton; Tenbury v Llandrindod; Towcestrians v Northampton Trinity; Trinity Guild v West Leicester; Upton on Severn v Tewkesbury; Veseyans v Kings Norton; Vipers v South Leicester; Warley v Kynoch; Warwick v Dunlop; Wellingborough Town v Kibworth; West Bridgford v Keyworth; Wigston v Syston; Wolverhampton v Walsall; Worksop v Wheatly Hills; Yardley & District v Edwardians.

NORTH: Club matches: Airebronians v Wensleydale; All Spartans v Meden Vale; Armthorpe Markham v Adwick; Ashton-under-Lyne v Burnage; Baildon v Skipton; Birkenhead Park v Liverpool St Helens; Blackburn v Kirkby Lonsdale; Blackpool v Thornton Cleveleys; Bowdon v Glossop; Bradford Salem v North Ribblesdale; Bridlington v York; Broughton Park v Vale of Lune; Buxton v Mosborough; Caldy v Old Anselmians; Carnforth v Fleetwood; Colne and Nelson v Clitheroe; Congleton v Moore; Crewe and Nantwich v Deeside; Danum Phoenix v Leeds CSSA; Davenport v Manchester; De la Salle v Castle College. Didsbury Toc H v Rossendale; Driffield v Beverley; Eagle v Wallasey; Fylde v Waterloo; Goole v Cleckheaton; Gosforth v Middlesbrough; Guisborough v Whitby; Halifax Vandals v Burley; Harrogate Georgians v Ilkley; Headingley v Nottingham; Heath v Roditians; Heaton Moor v Chester; Hightown v Lucas; Huddersfield v Sheffield; Hull and ER v Grimsby; Hullensians v BP Chemicals; Keighley v Halifax; Kendal v Melrose; Knottingley v Castleford; Leeds YMCA v Old Modernians; Lymm v Warrington; Macclesfield v Winnington Park; Malton and Norton v Hessle; Marist v Hornsea; Matlock v Chesterfield; Mersey Police v Sefton; Metrovick v Calder Vale; Mid-Cheshire College v Old Crossleyans; Moortown v Barnsley; Morley v Bradford and Bingley; Northern v Novocastrians; Old Brodleians v Wharfedale; Oldham v Kersal; Old Hymerians v Hull Ionians; Old Rishworthians v Ossett; Pontefract v Hemsworth; Preston Grasshoppers v Rugby; Rotherham v Doncaster; Roundhay v Orrell; Roundhegians v Otley; Sandal v Ripon; Sandbach v Old Aldwinians; Scarborough v Northallerton; Sedgley Park v Ashton on Mersey; Selby v York RI; Sheffield Oaks v Dronfield; Sheffield Tigers v East Retford; Spalding v Cleethorpes; Stockton v Acklam; Thornensians v Pocklington; Upper Eden v Bishop Auckland; Tyldesley v Liverpool Collegiate; Wath v Wakefield Wasps; West Hartlepool v Gateshead Fell; West Park v Southport; West Park Bramhope v Old Otliensians; Wetherby v Dinnington; Wibsey v Phoenix Park; Widnes v Wirral; Wigan v Aspull; Wilmslow v Old Salians; Withernsea v Stocksbridge; Worksop v Wheatley Hills; Yarnbury v Leodiensians.

WEST: Aretians v Imperial; Ashley Down v Bristol Telephones; Barnstaple v Truro; Barton Hill v Walcot; Bath CS v South West Gas; Bath OE v Bradford on Avon; Bridgwater and Albion v Launceston; Bishopston v Avonmouth; Blagdon v Winscombe; Bridgwater and Albion v Launceston; Cheltenham v Weston super Mare; Chard v Keynsham; Chipping Sodbury v Gordano; Cleve v Old Redcliffians; Clevedon v North Bristol; Frampton Cotterall v Broad Plain; Hayle v Camborne; Hornets v Stothert and Pitt; Keynsham v Bristol Harlequins; Kingswood v Old Ashtonians; Liskeard Looe v Bodmin; Old Bristolians v Old Sulians; Oldfield v Frome; Penzance and Newlyn v St Ives; Redruth v Newquay Hornets; St Austell v Saltash; St Brendans Old Boys v Old Colstonians; Thornton Utd v Old Culliensians; Veor v Lankelly Fowey; Weston Utd v Wells; Weston Ath v Cheddar; Whitehall v Thornbury; Wiveliscombe v Sherborne; Yatton v Backwell.

IRELAND: Munster: Senior League: Highfield v Young Munster; Old Crescent v Shannon; Sunday's Well v University College Cork; Waterpark v Constitution. Senior club: Bohemians v Ballinasloe. Ulster: Senior Club: Ards v CIYMS; Bangor v Portadown; Collegians v Instonians; City of Derry v Ballymena; NIFC v North President's XV.

RUGBY LEAGUE

REGAL TROPHY: Semi-final: St Helens v Halifax (at Wigan, 2.15).

SLALOM LAGER ALLIANCE (2.30 unless stated). Barrow v Ryedale York; Carlisle v Hull KR (2.15); Dewsbury v Bradford Northern; Doncaster v Sheffield Eagles, Whitehaven v Workington Town.

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division men (8.0 unless stated): Bury v Cheshire; Corby v Plymouth (7.30); Gateshead v Birmingham; Oldham v Crystal Palace; Stevenage v Broxton; Worthing v Hemel Hempstead. Second division men: Calderdale v Greenwich; Stockport v Birmingham (4.0); Watford v Kirklees. First division women: Gateshead v Northampton; London Central v Kingston.

ICE HOCKEY

HEINEKEN LEAGUE: Premier division: Ayr v Fife (7.0); Nottingham v Peterborough (6.0). First division: Cleveland v Telford (5.15); Swindon v Trafford (5.0). English League: First division: Basingstoke v Oxford City (6.0); Sheffield v Bracknell (5.45); Sunderland v Romford (5.30).

HOCKEY

LONDON AND SOUTH EAST: Amersham v Aylesbury; Anchorians v Gravesend; Bedford v Chelmsford; Broxbourne v Blueharts; Colchester v Chelmsford; Felixstowe v Harleston Magpies; Havant v Fareham; Ipswich and East Suffolk v Ipswich Sports Club; Oxford Hawks v West Herts; Pelicans v Norwich Grasshoppers; Richings Park v Chalfont; Westcliff v Old Southendian.

MIDLANDS: Aldridge v Stone; Barton v Robirch; Beeston v Sheffield Bankers; Bloxwich v Kings Heath; Boots v Stamford; Bourne v Leicester; Bridgnorth v Wolverhampton; Bromsgrove v Kynoch; Buxton v Michelin; Chaddesley Corbett v Birmingham Municipal; Derby v Belper; GEC Coventry v Barford Tigers; GEC Stafford v Walsall; Grantham v Rosses; Hampton in Arden v Olton; Hereford v Evesham; Horton House v Coalville; Leek v GEC Rugby; Leicester Westleigh v Ashby; Leominster v Ludlow; Mansfield v Corby; Northampton Saints v Wi tney; North Notts v John Player; North Stafford v Cannock; Old Silhillians v Worcester; Pershore v Lydney; Pickwick v Edgbaston; Rolls Royce v Newark; Rugby v Nuneaton; Sheffield Castle v Derwent; South Notts v Lichfield; Stratford on Avon v Droitwich; Streetly v Kidderminster; Sutton Coldfield v Warwick; Tamworth v Stafford; Telford v Burton; Wednesbury v Old Wulfrunians; West Bridgford v Nottingham.

LACROSSE

BRINE NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Heaton Mersey v Old Hulmeians; Old Stopfordians v Mellor; Old Waconians v Cheadle; Timperley v Rochdale.

SPORT ON TV

Today

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: Screensport 1.30-3.30am, 7-9am, 3-4pm and 9-11pm: College match and National Football League: Highlights.

ATHLETICS: Eurosport 9.30-10am: Women's 15km road race.

AUSTRALIAN RULES: Eurosport 2-4pm: The Grand Final: Highlights of Hawthorne v Geelong.

BASKETBALL: Screensport 5-6.30am and 12-1.30pm: College match: ACC/Big East Challenge: Pittsburgh v Georgia Tech and University of Connecticut v Maryland. Eurosport 8-9pm: Best of the Year.

BOXING: Screensport 11pm-12.30am: Professional event from the United States.

EUROSPORT MENU: Eurosport 9-9.30am.

FIRST DIVISION SPECIAL: ITV 1.40-3.50pm: Coverage of Liverpool v Manchester United.

FOOTBALL: Eurosport 11am-12.30pm and 4-6pm: World Youth Cup: Highlights of the second semi-final from Saudi Arabia, and International match: Highlights of Italy v Argentina from Cagliari, Sardinia. Eurosport 9-11pm: Highlights from the Champions Cup, UEFA Cup and Cup Winners' Cup.

GOLF: Screensport 10am-midday and 11pm-midnight: Highlights of the Mazda championships from Sandy bay, Jamaica.

GRANDSTAND: BBC1 12.15-5pm: Rugby league: Regal Trophy: Live coverage of the first semi-final: Amateur Boxing: England v Ireland from Coventry: SKIING: World Cup: Women's Downhill from Panorama, Canada: Racing: 12.50, 1.20, 1.55 and 3.0 from Chepstow.

ICE SKATING: Eurosport 1-2pm: Figure skating: Highlights of the NHK Trophy from Japan: Screensport 7.30-9pm: Figure skating: Highlights of the 1989 World professional championships from Washington, United States.

ICE HOCKEY: Screensport 4-6pm: National Hockey League.

KARATE: Screensport 9-10am: Highlights of the British Kyokushinkai championships.

MOTORCYCLING: Screensport 6.30-7am: Moto-cross: Highlights of the World championship.

MOTOR SPORT: Eurosport 11pm-midnight: Preview of the Paris-Dakar rally. Screensport 12.30am (tomorrow): Highlights of the German Formula 3 championships from Nurburgring.

POWERSPORTS INTERNATIONAL: Screensport 6.30-7.30pm.

RUGBY LEAGUE: Screensport 3.30-5am and 1.30-3pm: Highlights of the Regal Trophy: Third round.

RUGBY UNION: Eurosport 7-8pm: Tour match: Highlights of England B v Soviet Union from Northampton.

SAINT AND GREAVSIE: ITV 1.10-1.40pm.

SKIING: Eurosport 10-11am: Ford Ski Report.

SPORT EN FRANCE: Screensport 6-6.30pm.

TENNIS: Eurosport 12.30-1pm: Tennis Legends: Nastase and Ralston v Davidson and Okker.

TRANS WORLD SPORT: Eurosport 6-7pm: Sport from around the world.

UPDATE: Screensport 6.0pm.

Tomorrow

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: Screensport 7-8am, 10-11am and 9.30-11.30pm: National Football League: Highlights, and College match.

BASKETBALL: Screensport 3-4.30am, 3-4.30pm and 8-9.30pm: College match: ACC/Big East Challenge: University of Connecticut v Maryland.

BOXING: Screensport 11.30pm: Top Rank event from the United States.

CYCLING: Eurosport 4-5pm: Highlights of the Commonwealth Classic from Australia.

EQUESTRIANISM: Eurosport 2-3pm: Highlights of the Olympia Horse Show.

EUROSPORT MENU: Eurosport 9-9.30am.

FOOTBALL: Eurosport 10am-midday: FIFA World Youth Cup: Highlights of the final from Saudi Arabia: Eurosport 9-10pm: Film: 'Maradona - Greatest Player in The World?'. Screensport 1.15-3am and 12-1. Spanish League: Logrones v Real Madrid.

GOLF: Screensport 4.30-6.30am and 8-10am: Highlights of the Mazda championships from Sandy bay, Jamaica: Eurosport 8-9pm: Best of the Year.

ICE HOCKEY: Screensport 6-8pm: National Hockey League.

ICE SKATING: Screensport 4.30-6pm: Figure skating: Highlights of the 1989 World professional championships from Washington, United States: Eurosport 1-2 and 6-7pm: Figure skating: Highlights of the NHK Trophy from Japan.

MOTOR SPORT: Screensport 1.45-2.30pm: Highlights of the German Formula 3 championships from Nurburgring: Eurosport 5-6pm: Preview of the Paris-Dakar rally.

RUGBY LEAGUE: Eurosport 3-4pm: Highlights of the Regal Trophy.

SPORT EN FRANCE: Screensport 6.30-7am and 2.30-3pm.

SURFING: Eurosport 12-1pm: Surfing Special.

TENNIS: Eurosport 9.30-10am: Tennis Legends: Nastase and Ralston v Davidson and Okker.

UPDATE: Screensport 6.0pm.

YACHTING: Eurosport 11pm-midnight: World Racing.

Charter Hardware can collect

By Mandarin

Charter Hardware, a progressive type with bottomless stamina, can extend the excellent recent record of seven-year-olds by capturing the Coral Welsh National at Chepstow this afternoon.

Members of that age group have won all but one running of the race in the eighties and statistics suggest that an improving young horse with a light weight has an advantage over the seasoned campaigner.

With only 9st 5lb in the long handicap, Charter Hardware's chance is far from obvious. But carrying more than their official mark has proved no bar to big-race success in recent weeks for Ghofar, Long Engagement, Clever Folly and Solidasarock.

Charter Hardware first showed that he had the potential to land a top chasing prize when, as an unconsidered 50-1 chance, he chased home Cool Ground in the Kim Muir at Cheltenham in March.

The John Edwards-trained gelding then proved that performance to have been no fluke and showed his liking for an out-and-out test of endurance when a close second to Roll-A-Joint over the extended four miles of the Scottish National on heavy ground at Ayr in April.

A strict interpretation of the weights gives Charter Hardware a little to find with both those winners today. But Cool Ground's stable is right out of form while Roll-A-Joint has yet to recapture last season's sparkle in three runs this term.

In contrast, Charter Hardware showed his well-being with an eye-catching second to Polyfemus under a big weight over today's course three weeks ago, running on stoutly in the closing stages. Today's longer trip and softer going will be right up his street.

Bonanza Boy, victorious 12 months ago under 10st 1lb, attempts to become only the second dual winner and the first to succeed in consecutive years. He could not have been more impressive than when gaining his third course success in the Rehearsal Chase but 11st 11lb looks a stopping weight in this ground.

Ghofar, the other ante-post joint-favourite, also has history against him as a six-year-old has yet to win the race. This year's Hennessy Gold Cup appeared a sub-standard race at the time and the subsequent defeats of the trio immediately behind Ghofar at Newbury — Brown Windsor, Mr Frisk and Durham Edition — have lent weight to that view.

Remedy The Malady looked a potential National horse when winning over four miles at Haydock nine days ago but had a hard race and that was far from the ideal preparation for a race of this nature.

Team Challenge, third at Haydock, appears held but Stearsby, pulled up after running well for a long way, now meets the winner on 15lb better terms and was well backed earlier in the week to repeat his 1986 triumph.

John Edwards: high hopes for Charter Hardware

Conclusive, the lone northern challenger, is a fine jumper and unbeaten for more than a year. His best form is on a faster surface, though, and the two inches of rain which have fallen this week may count against him.

So the main danger to my selection may come from last season's Aintree hero, Little Polveir. After quiet runs at Cheltenham and Chepstow, he should be ready to do himself justice once more.

However Little Polveir fares, Toby Balding should be on the mark later in the afternoon when Morley Street, so impressive at Cheltenham a fortnight ago, contests the Racing International Hurdle, the final leg of the Sport of Kings Challenge. Undaunted looks the one for the forecast.

Royal Wonder, who produced arguably the best juvenile hurdling performance of the season when beating Coe by five lengths at Cheltenham, can complete a six-timer in the Curran Group Finale Junior Hurdle. Martin Pipe and Peter Scudamore can initiate a double with Walk Of Life in the opening Festive Novices' Chase.

BIG RACE LINE-UP BBC1

1.55 CORAL WELSH NATIONAL HANDICAP CHASE (Listed race: £21,980: 3m 6f) (12 runners)

No	Form	Horse	Rider	Rating
401	F140P-1	BONANZA BOY 21 (CD,F,G,S) (S Dunster) M Pipe 8-11-11 (4ex) *(Pink, white stars, pink sleeves, purple armlets, pink cap, white star)*	P Scudamore	●99
402	R221R-P	STEARSBY 9 (CD,G,S) (Miss C Burge) G Ham 10-10-7 *(black and red quarters, black and white hooped sleeves)*	S McNeill	91
403	3541-55	LITTLE POLVEIR 21 (C,D,G,S) (E Harvey) G Balding 12-10-0 *(Saxe blue, black stripe on cap, scarlet sleeves)*	J Frost	95
404	111-26P	ROLL-A-JOINT 9 (G,S) (CD,BF) (R Williams) C Popham 11-10-0 *(Yellow, red star, armlets and star on cap)*	R Dunwoody	86
405	114-021	GHOFAR 28 (B,F,G,S) (Sir Hugh Dundas) D Elsworth 6-10-0 (4ex) *(White, Black diamond, Purple sleeves and cap)*	B Powell	88
406	2U11U-4	COOL GROUND 10 (C,G,S) (Whitcombe Manor Racing Ltd) N Mitchell 7-10-0 *(Dark blue, yellow star, sleeves and star on cap)*	A Tory	81
407	11/312P-	OUTSIDE EDGE 303 (BF,S) (B Kilpatrick) D Murray-Smith 8-10-0 *(Emerald green, scarlet hooped sleeves and cap)*	M Bowlby	79
408	61422-2	CHARTER HARDWARE 21 (C,G,S) (Charter Racing) J Edwards 7-10-0 *(Royal blue, white stars, white cap)*	N Williamson (3)	87
409	P0/111-1	REMEDY THE MALADY 9 (F,G,S) (J Beasley) M Robinson 8-10-0 (4ex) *(Brown, yellow disc, yellow cap, brown star)*	J Duggan	91
410	UF11-11	CONCLUSIVE 30 (F,G,S) (R Shaw) G Richards 10-10-0 (4ex) *(Black, black cap, emerald green spots)*	N Doughty	87
411	14330-3	TEAM CHALLENGE 9 (HV,F,G,S) (Mrs E Hitchins) Mrs J Pitman 7-10-0 *(Royal blue and red diamonds, royal blue sleeves, red cap, royal blue star)*	B de Haan	79
412	0BP42-2	ON THE TWIST 36 (G,S) (G Hubbard) G Hubbard 7-10-0 *(Emerald Green, White sleeves, Emerald Green and White check cap)*	D Murphy	60

Long handicap: Roll-A-Joint 9-10, Ghofar 9-9, Cool Ground 9-6, Outside Edge 9-6, Charter Hardware 9-5, Remedy The Malady 9-1, Conclusive 8-13, Team Challenge 8-9, On The Twist 7-10.

BETTING: 5-2 Bonanza Boy, 3-1 Ghofar, 8-1 Remedy The Malady, 9-1 Conclusive, 10-1 Cool Ground, 12-1 Little Polveir, 14-1 Charter Hardware, Roll-A-Joint, Stearsby, 20-1 Outside Edge, 25-1 Team Challenge, 150-1 On The Twist.

1988: BONANZA BOY 7-10-1 P Scudamore (9-4 fav) M Pipe 12 ran

Form guide to the 12 contenders

BONANZA BOY
Dec 2, Chepstow, good: (11-10) beat Run And Skip (10-9) 10l with LITTLE POLVEIR (10-7) 41l 5th (3m limited h'cap, £5,952, 6 ran).
Apr 29, Sandown, good to soft: (11-3) pulled up behind Brown Windsor (3m 5f 18yd h'cap, £45,900, 18 ran).
Apr 8, Liverpool, heavy: see LITTLE POLVEIR.

STEARSBY
Dec 14, Haydock, heavy: see REMEDY THE MALADY.
Apr 8, Liverpool, heavy: see LITTLE POLVEIR.
Mar 21, Nottingham, good to soft: (11-0) beat The Langholm Dyer (10-10) 20l (3m 4f h'cap, £3,404, 4 ran).

LITTLE POLVEIR
Dec 2, Chepstow, good: see BONANZA BOY.
Nov 11, Cheltenham, good: (11-4) 29l 5th to Royal Cedar (10-01) (3m 4f h'cap, £7,180, 5 ran).
Apr 8, Liverpool, heavy: (10-3) beat West Tip (10-11) 7l with BONANZA BOY (11-01) 30l 8th, TEAM CHALLENGE (10-0) 34l 9th and STEARSBY (10-9) refused 11th (4m 4f h'cap, £66,840, 40 ran).

ROLL-A-JOINT
Dec 14, Haydock, heavy: see REMEDY THE MALADY.
Nov 25, Newbury, good to firm: see GHOFAR.
Nov 9, Wincanton, good: (10-4) 12l 2nd to Desert Orchid (12-0) (3m 1f h'cap, £5,076, 2 ran).
Apr 15, Ayr, heavy: (10-0) beat CHARTER HARDWARE (10-0) 1½l (4m 120yd h'cap, £25,750, 11 ran).

GHOFAR
Nov 25, Newbury, good to firm: (10-2) beat Brown Windsor (11-0) a neck with ROLL-A-JOINT (10-8) 23½l 6th (3m 2f 82yd h'cap, £30,272, 8 ran).
Nov 18, Ascot, good to firm: (11-5) 1½l 2nd to Man O'Magic (11-5) (2m 4f h'cap, £23,820, 11 ran).
Nov 11, Cheltenham, good: (11-5) 26l 8th to Highland Bounty (10-4) (2m h'cap hurdle, £14,020, 10 ran).

COOL GROUND
Dec 13, Haydock, good to soft: (10-12) 29l 4th to Bales (10-12) (3m, £8,149, 9 ran).
Mar 27, Fairyhouse, yielding: (10-0) unseated rider behind Maid Of Money (11-6) (3m 4f h'cap, £55,200, 22 ran).
Mar 14, Cheltenham, soft: (10-0) beat CHARTER HARDWARE (10-0) 1½l with TEAM CHALLENGE (10-00) 4l 3rd (3m h'cap, amateurs, £12,603, 16 ran).
Dec 26, 1988, Newton Abbot, good: (10-0) beat OUTSIDE EDGE (11-3) 12l with TEAM CHALLENGE (10-6) 18l 4th (3m 2f 100yd h'cap, £3,949, 6 ran).

OUTSIDE EDGE
Feb 23, Folkestone, good to soft: (11-10) pulled up behind Woodgate (11-5) (3m 2f h'cap, £2,734, 6 ran).
Dec 26, 1988, Newton Abbot, good: see COOL GROUND.
Dec 12, 1988, Warwick, good to soft: (12-5) beat Lolly's Boy (10-6) 4l (3m 1f h'cap, £2,679, 10 ran).

CHARTER HARDWARE
Dec 2, Chepstow, good: (11-9) 1½l 2nd to Polyfemus (11-05) (3m 3f h'cap, £3,392, 10 ran).
Apr 15, Ayr, heavy: see ROLL-A-JOINT.
Mar 14, Cheltenham, soft: see COOL GROUND.

REMEDY THE MALADY
Dec 14, Haydock, heavy (10-2) beat Tarconey (10-1) 12l with TEAM CHALLENGE (10-0) 10l 3rd and STEARSBY (11-10) and ROLL-A-JOINT (10-13) pulled up (4m h'cap, £6,028, 9 ran).
Dec 26, 1988, Wolverhampton, good: (12-0) beat Leave It To Baily (10-0) 3l (3m 1f h'cap, £2,023, 8 ran).
Nov 21, 1988, Leicester, good to firm: (11-6) beat Take No Trash (11-0) 30l (3m novices, £1,948, 3 ran).

CONCLUSIVE
Nov 23, Haydock, good: (10-7) beat Mister Christian (10-3) 6l (3m 4f h'cap, £5,475, 9 ran).
Nov 13, Carlisle, good: (11-10) beat Kilione Abbey (11-8) 5l (3m 2f h'cap, £2,248, 6 ran).
Jan 13, Wetherby, good: (11-0) beat The Wilk (10-5) 2l (3m 100yd h'cap, £2,364, 6 ran).

TEAM CHALLENGE
Dec 14, Haydock, heavy: see REMEDY THE MALADY.
Apr 8, Liverpool, heavy: see LITTLE POLVEIR.
Mar 14, Cheltenham, soft: see COOL GROUND.

ON THE TWIST
Nov 17, Huntingdon, good: (11-10) 5l 2nd to The Shuffler (10-6) (3m h'cap, £2,245, 5 ran).
Dec 26, 1988, Huntingdon, good to soft: (11-10) 30l 2nd to Golden Freeze (12-0) (3m, £2,280, 4 ran).
Dec 6, 1988, Leicester, good: (12-3) 14l 4th to Seagram (11-8) (3m h'cap, £2,343, 6 ran).

Selection: BONANZA BOY

CHEPSTOW

Selections

By Mandarin

12.20 Walk Of Life. 12.50 Beau Pari. 1.20 Royal Wonder. 1.55 CHARTER HARDWARE (nap). 2.30 Dan Raise. 3.00 Morley Street. 3.30 Only Trouble.

By Michael Seely

12.50 Regal Ambition. 1.55 BONANZA BOY (nap). 3.00 Morley Street.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 1.55 BONANZA BOY.

Going: soft

12.20 FESTIVE SPIRIT NOVICES CHASE (4-Y-O: £1,992: 2m) (11 runners)

No	Form	Horse	Rider	Rating
101	23-4450	ASTRE RADIEUX 7 (T Hemmings) S Mellor 10-9	S Cowley	—
102	314-065	BRANDESTON 8 (G) (G Hubbard) G Hubbard 10-9	D Murphy	—
103	0-0	COIS NA HABHNA 17 (R Tondut) R Champion 10-9	M Lynch	—
104	0-	COLTOWN BOY 286 (F Golding) M Madgwick 10-9	H Davies	—
105	-00-P0	JUST PERKINS 15 (J Guthrie) P Anderson 10-9	P Verling (5)	—
106	2222	MAJOR EFFORT 17 (BF) (Mrs F Harvey) G Balding 10-9	J Frost	—
107	050-0	MARCHMAN 57 (BF) (M McBride) J King 10-9	D Tegg	—
108	00-F	MINIMUM RISK 30 (Mrs J Murray) P Hedger 10-9	M Richards	—
109	0-0P	MON REGRET 40 (N New) J Old 10-9	S McNeill	—
110	083-P00	SPIRITED HOLME 18 (S) (M Barrow) D Williams 10-9	R Dunwoody	—
111	2113	WALK OF LIFE 33 (B,BF,F) (N Wallington) M Pipe 10-9	P Scudamore	—

BETTING: 5-4 Walk Of Life, 2-1 Major Effort, 8-1 Astre Radieux, 12-1 Marchman, 14-1 Brandeston, 20-1 others.

1988: ELEGANT ISLE 10-9 P Scudamore (9-4) M Pipe 9 ran

12.50 PHILIP CORNES NOVICES HURDLE (Qualifier: £3,498: 2m 4f) (20 runners) BBC 1

No	Form	Horse	Rider	Rating
201	P-21211	KAMEO STYLE 24 (F,G) (Three Counties Bloodstock Ltd) F Jordan 6-11-8	J Lodder (5)	90
202	F11	LATENT TALENT 31 (D,G,S) (Mrs C Heath) O Sherwood 5-11-8	J Osborne	93
203	0000-21	BEAU PARI 38 (D,S) (G Redmore) J Gifford 5-11-4	R Rowe	87
204	12	REGAL AMBITION 15 (D,BF,S) (Skellock Ltd) M Pipe 5-11-4	P Scudamore	●99
205	64/020-1	STRONG GOLD 11 (D,F,S) (Mrs S Robins) Mrs J Pitman 6-11-4	M Pitman	84
206	131/	BLACK MOCCASIN 624 (G,S) (Platinum Racing) Mrs J Pitman 6-11-0	—	—
207		COME ON COME ON (R Pudd) Miss J Thorne 4-11-0	N Dawe	—
208		DROMINA STAR (P Barber) J Old 6-11-0	S McNeill	—
209		END RESULT (C Bulmore) G Balding 4-11-0	J Frost	—
210	0-	FISHERMAN'S COVE 246 (Mrs S Williams) Mrs S Williams 5-11-0	—	—
211	000/	HOME ON SUNDAY 619 (T Lavin) R Brotherton 5-11-0	S Keightley	—
212	82-42	IMPALE 9 (Miss J Reed) G Richards 5-11-0	N Doughty	83
213	0	MARTIN'S FRIEND 48 (D Bloomfield) D Bloomfield 6-11-0	—	—
214		MELICUS 498F (Amergroup Bloodlines Corporation) P Cole 4-11-0	R Dunwoody	—
215	6/2-P	MY BOY STAN 2 (C Brinson) R Callow 5-11-0	NON-RUNNER	—
216	00-4	ROYLE SPEEDMASTER 46 (Royle Machinery Ltd) J Edwards 5-11-0	N Williamson (3)	—
217	4	SERGEANT AT ARMS 14 (Churchills Racehorse Ltd) J Long 4-11-0	R Rowell	62
218	0	SIR NODDY 14 (J Noden) C Vernon Miller 5-11-0	—	—
219	30-	THE ARTFUL RASCAL 352 (Mrs R Benton) J Gifford 5-11-0	Peter Hobbs	86
220	4/03-	TOPSHAM BAY 357 (M Marsh) D Barons 6-11-0	—	62

BETTING: 4-1 Regal Ambition, 5-1 Latent Talent, Strong Gold, 6-1 Beau Pari, 12-1 Kameo Style, 14-1 Impale, 16-1 The Artful Rascal, 20-1 Black Moccasin, 25-1 others.

1988: MARKET FORCES 5-11-0 M Perrett (14-1) N Gaselee 18 ran

FORM FOCUS KAMEO STYLE gained 3rd success of term when running on well to beat Grace Monthly 7l at Hereford (2m 3f, good to firm). LATENT TALENT is well thought of and impressed when staying on well to beat Invasion by 4l at Haydock (2m 4f, good to soft) with IMPALE a further 5½l back in 4th. Will be suited by this test of stamina.
BEAU PARI responded to strong driving to beat Shady Road by 1½l at Worcester (2m 4f, good to soft). Faces tougher opposition today. REGAL AMBITION looked an exciting prospect when beating Hascombe Hill by an unextended 30l on Worcester (2m 4f, good to soft) debut and battled well when a short-head 2nd to Remittance Man at Cheltenham (2m 4f, firm).
STRONG GOLD returned to beat with a 20l defeat of Eastbane at Plumpton (2m 4f, good to firm) but will be fully tested to follow up in this tougher race. BLACK MOCCASIN beat Morley Street by ¾l in a Liverpool National Hunt Flat (2m, good to soft) in April 88. He missed the whole of last term with sinus problems but is held in very high regard.
IMPALE kept on without troubling winner when a 7l 2nd to Minnehoma at Haydock (2m 6f, heavy).
Selection: LATENT TALENT

1.20 CURRAN GROUP FINALE JUNIOR HURDLE (Listed race: 3-Y-O: £7,700: 2m) (11 runners) BBC 1

No	Form	Horse	Rider	Rating
301	1	CALICON 29 (D,F) (S Berry) I Balding 11-0	J Frost	91
302		CHILD OF THE MIST 181F (Mrs C Heath) O Sherwood 11-0	J Osborne	—
303	382	CRYSTAL HEIGHTS 15 (Mrs K Sisterl) Mrs J Retter 11-0	B Powell	83
304		FIRST WHIP 178F (Mrs M Burgin) J Thomas 11-0	D Tegg	—
305	2121	GAY RUFFIAN 9 (B,G,S) (J Jones) D Burchell 11-0	D J Burchell	82
306	3	GENERAL PERSHING 31 (Three Counties Bloodstock Ltd) F Jordan 11-0	J Lodder	87
307		GO NOBLEY 131F (Mrs E Ogden-White) T Thomson Jones 11-0	H Davies	—
308	3	MARCH ON 38 (D,G) (Miss D Smyth) R Smyth 11-0	R Goldstein	89
309	5	NINJA 92 (H Mould) D Nicholson 11-0	R Dunwoody	—
310		WICK POUND 76F (K Britten) J Old 11-0	S McNeill	—
311	211111	ROYAL WONDER 15 (B,D,F,G) (Pond House Racing) M Pipe 10-9	P Scudamore	●99

BETTING: 2-1 Royal Wonder, 11-4 Child Of The Mist, 9-2 Gay Ruffian, 8-1 General Pershing, 10-1 Calicon, 14-1 March On, 20-1 others.

1988: ENEMY ACTION 11-3 P Scudamore (8-15 fav) M Pipe 9 ran

FORM FOCUS CALICON looked a useful prospect when beating subsequent scorer Carmagnole by 2l on Newbury (2m 100yd, good to firm). CHILD OF THE MIST was a fairly useful middle-distance performer for Barry Hills on the Flat.
CRYSTAL HEIGHTS failed to quicken close home when a ¾l 2nd to Philosophus (pair 15l clear) at Devon (2m 1f, good to firm).
GAY RUFFIAN relished the testing conditions when running on strongly to beat Iveagh House at Haydock (2m, heavy); earlier had GENERAL PERSHING (3lb worse off) 2½l back in 3rd when a ¾l 2nd to Til Folene over same course and distance (good to soft).
MARCH ON took it up 2 out when beating Oidister by 7l on Kempton (2m, good) hurdling bow. NINJA should improve on never nearer 35l 5th to As Good As Gold on Newbury (2m 100yd, good) debut.
ROYAL WONDER completed a five-timer when running on strongly to beat Coe by 5l at Cheltenham (2m, firm) latest. Continues to improve and should again go close.
Selection: CALICON (nap)

1.55 CORAL WELSH NATIONAL HANDICAP CHASE (Listed race: £21,980: 3m 6f) (12 runners) BBC 1

RUNNERS AND RIDERS SEE RIGHT

2.30 YULETIDE CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,150: 2m 4f) (22 runners)

No	Form	Horse	Rider	Rating
501	0605/50-	TOUR DE FORCE 233 (G,S) (Mrs D Strauss) P Makin 9-11-10	S Hodgson	87
502	-434621	KINGS RANK 9 (B,D,F,G,S) (D Few) M Pipe 4-11-9	D Richmond	98
503	21266-F	BAGS 7 (S) (D Ward-Smith) J Fox 5-11-9	S Fox	82
504	682/059	TUNS HILL 10 (B,S) (B Escott) R Dickin 7-11-8	J Railton	88
505	1211	REACH ME DOWN 25 (D,F,G) (The Rumble Racing Club) G Balding 5-11-7	W McFarland	92
506	400884-	POLISH 236 (C,D,S) (R Brookhouse) D Wintle 11-11-6	—	97
507	5P0-311	INTERPLAY 37 (D,G,S) (M Hickey) R O'Sullivan 4-11-6	D O'Sullivan	92
508	6140/	ONE TO MARK 703 (S) (R Donohoe) R Bennett 6-11-3	M Hoad	—
509	00112/0	GOLDEN ACRE 48 (G,S) (R Hewitt) S Cole 7-11-3	R Bellamy	94
510	10400-P	GRAFTON MAISEY 38 (S) (A Mason) A Mason 10-11-2	D Bridgwater	88
511	61340-P	ROYS DILEMMA 91 (D,S) (W Sheedy) W Sheedy 7-11-1	—	90
512	1P5-	COIRE VANNICH 245 (S) (Mrs J George) P Hobbs 5-10-11	O Hood	91
513	44/05/8	DERBY DAY 29 (F,G) (R Blake) Miss J Blakeney 8-10-11	W Humphreys	—
514	050/2F-6	DAN RAISE 45 (S) (Mrs J Saunders) Mrs J Pitman 8-10-10	—	—
515	/04820-	COLONEL JAMES 249 (S) (Miss D Smith) Mrs N Sharpe 7-10-10	I Lawrence	88
516	184/000-	SEA PENNANT 347 (C,F,S) (I Jones) I Jones 13-10-8	—	—
517	/12101/	BELLIVER PRINCE 758 (F,G,S) (G Roe) G Roe 9-10-8	—	—
518	400/030/	GENERALISE 616 (S) (J Browne Construction Co Ltd) G Thorner 7-10-7	J Duffy (7)	—
519	420-351	MOUNTAIN MAN 15 (D,F,G,S) (C McDonagh) R Dickin 13-10-7	M Jones (5)	96
520	818F-P5	FRIENDLY HENRY 15 (S) (R Wright) J Fox 9-10-7	M Kane	—
521	24/6/P0	SCATTERBUCK 37 (B,F) (C Taylor) M Bradstock 8-10-5	M Fitzgerald	—
522	4F1-35P	POP SONG 44 (S) (G Roe) G Roe 5-10-4	—	●99

BETTING: 3-1 Mountain Man, 4-1 Kings Rank, 6-1 Interplay, 7-1 Reach Me Down, 8-1 Dan Raise, Pop Song, 14-1 Coire Vannich, 20-1 others.

1988: HEYFLEET 5-11-9 J Leech (9-2 jt-fav) Mrs J Pitman 16 ran

3.0 RACING INTERNATIONAL HURDLE (For the Sport Of Kings Challenge: £8,940: 2m 4f) (8 runners) BBC 1

No	Form	Horse	Rider	Rating
601	6112-46	DIS TRAIN 38 (C,G,S) (M Oberstein) Mrs J Pitman 5-11-6	M Pitman	90
602	1141-21	MORLEY STREET 14 (D,F,G,S) (Salehurst Paper Co Ltd) G Balding 5-11-6	J Frost	●99
603	33113-5	UNDAUNTED 7 (D,F,S) (B Burrough) Mrs J Pitman 5-11-6	M Pitman	92
604	112-	CALABRESE 236 (S) (Mrs A Fagan) N Henderson 4-11-1	P Harley	81
605	2414-13	IKDAM 14 (D,F,S) (LSI Law (873) Ltd) R Holder 4-11-1	N Coleman	96
606	6	JAMAICA BAY 14 (F) (Augustin Stables) J Sheppard (US) 4-11-1	Miss B Miller	—
607	1-00	LITTLE-NIPPER 21 (F) (Mrs J Mould) D Nicholson 4-11-1	R Dunwoody	—
608	365-301	PROPERO 7 (D,G,S) (Mrs S Willis) J Gifford 4-11-1	R Rowe	84

BETTING: 8-15 Morley Street, 5-1 Undaunted, 7-1 Propero, 10-1 Calabrese, 14-1 Ikdam, 20-1 Jamaica Bay, 25-1 Dis Train, 33-1 Little Nipper.

1988: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

FORM FOCUS DIS-TRAIN has disappointed since encouraging reappearance 7l 4th to Dare Say in Sandown handicap (2m, good). MORLEY STREET stepped up on reappearance 6l 2nd to Cruising Altitude at Newbury (2m 100yd, good to firm) to score impressively at Cheltenham (2m 4f, firm) beating Deep Sensation 7l with IKDAM (same terms) 2¼l 3rd and JAMAICA BAY (same terms) 10½l 6th. Last season MORLEY STREET showed useful form included 1½l defeat of Trapper John with UNDAUNTED (4lb worse off) ¾l 3rd at Liverpool (2m 4f, heavy) in April.
UNDAUNTED weakened from 2 out when 20l 5th to Royal Athlete on seasonal bow at Ascot (3m 2f, good to soft). CALABRESE won novice events at Leicester and Stratford (2m 6f, good to soft) last term, on the latter course beat Arctic Baron 5l.
PROPERO returned to form in amateurs handicap at Ascot (2m 4f, good to soft) beating Auction Law 5l.
Selection: MORLEY STREET

3.30 CHRISTMAS CRACKER HANDICAP CHASE (£3,039: 2m 4f) (13 runners)

No	Form	Horse	Rider	Rating
1	21P113-	ONE MORE KNIGHT 260 (C,D,G,S) (R West) Mrs I McKie 6-11-13	L Harvey	90
2	1F-34FT	HERBERT UNITED 18 (D,F,G,S) (Lady Harris) G Balding 10-11-11	J Frost	90
3	U015-15	SILVER PALE 19 (D,BF,F,S) (P Scammell) M Oliver 8-11-8	J Railton (3)	88
4	P/F3832-	JOHNS PRESENT 271 (CD,S) (P Dening) R Holder 11-11-2	N Coleman	86
5	B501PP-	SEVENS OUT 252 (S) (G Nock) A J Wilson 7-11-0	—	93
6	311P3-4	ONLY TROUBLE 19 (C,D,S) (T Houlbrooke) T Houlbrooke 8-10-11	H Davies	93
7	F3525-1	THE LEGGETT 16 (F,G,S) (A Ford) M Pipe 6-10-7	P Scudamore	93
8	1USP4-P	SIRRAH JAY 72 (D,G,S) (Whitcombe Manor Racing Ltd) N Mitchell 9-10-6	A Tory	91
9	03R315/	CLEAR CHOICE 600 (S) (Mrs J Finding) N Mitchell 7-10-5	R Dunwoody	—
10	P0P4P6-	DAVID'S TREASURE 245 (D,S) (T Raggett) Mrs N Sharpe 9-10-4	M Bosley	—
11	U32221-	SHOTINGO 320 (D,G) (W Sheedy) W Sheedy 9-10-1	S Hodgson (7)	●99
12	2/P1F42-	WALLY WOMBAT 328 (D,S) (E Prall) M Scudamore 11-10-1	D Tegg	92
13	522230	NUMERATE 14 (D,F,G,S) (M Giles) P Davis 10-10-0	Tanya Davis	81

Long handicap: Numerate 9-12.

BETTING: 100-30 The Leggett, 5-1 Herbert United, 7-1 Shotingo, 9-1 One More Knight, 10-1 Only Trouble, 12-1 Wally Wombat, 14-1 Silver Pale, Numerate, 16-1 John's Present, 20-1 others.

1988: FU'S LADY 5-12-0 P Scudamore (5-6 fav) M Pipe 7 ran

Course specialists

TRAINERS	Winners	Runners	Per cent
M Pipe	25	85	29.4
N Henderson	7	29	24.1
J Gifford	14	62	22.6
G Ham	4	18	22.2
D Barons	16	82	19.5
O Sherwood	7	39	17.9

JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	Per cent
P Scudamore	48	152	31.6
M Pitman	7	41	17.1
R Rowe	6	40	15.0
Peter Hobbs	9	62	14.5
R Dunwoody	9	63	14.3
J Duggan	4	29	13.8

In The Times on Boxing Day a full guide to all eight meetings

EDINBURGH

Selections

By Mandarin

12.15 Groom Star. 12.45 Ringmore. 1.15 Hopping Around. 1.45 Stay On Tracks. 2.15 Queens Palace. 2.45 Mister Point. 3.15 Macarthur.

Guide to our in-line racecard

1 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (B,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 10-0 ... B West (7) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing; F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

Going: good

12.15 CRAIG PARK FESTIVE NOVICES HURDLE (3-Y-O: £1,604: 2m) (8 runners)

No	Form	Horse	Rider	Rating
1	31	GROOM STAR 28 (D,F) (Robinson Publications) N Tinkler 11-4	G McCourt	●99
2	51	JOE BUMPAS 12 (CD,F) (W Spink) T Barron 11-4	M Dwyer	91
3	08	CAPITAL BUILDER 35 (Silverbell Racing) I Semple 10-12	J K Kinane	—
4	825	CORNET 15 (Duke Of Sutherland) Denys Smith 10-12	P Niven	98
5		EASY OVER 54F (Miss V Foster) G Moore 10-12	M Hammond	—
6	894	NINEOFUS 12 (F Wilson) M H Easterby 10-12	L Wyer	90
7		SUREST DANCER 54F (W Barker) Mrs P Barker 10-12	C Hawkins	—
8		RUADH ADHAR 82F (D Wright) J S Wilson 10-7	C Grant	—

BETTING: 8-11 Groom Star, 7-2 Easy Over, 7-2 Joe Bumpas, 8-1 Cornet, 10-1 Nineofus, 14-1 Capital Builder, 16-1 others.

1988: PHOTINIA 10-8 R Garritty (13-2) T Fairhurst 8 ran

12.45 GLASSEDIN SECURITIES CINDERELLA HANDICAP CHASE (£2,409: 2m) (4 runners)

No	Form	Horse	Rider	Rating
1	24-2232	RINGMORE 28 (CD,F,G) (W Sellers) J Parkes 7-11-10	N Smith (7)	94
2	32-3145	IMPAGE 2 (D,F,G,S) (D Nicholson) S Leadbetter 11-11-5	J Hansen	95
3	3122/53	RICHARDS BAY 36 (D,BF,S) (J Retter) I Semple 8-11-5	Gar Lyons (3)	●99
4	311433	STRAIGHT DOWN 26 (D,F,G) (Mrs P Barker) Mrs P Barker 12-11-3	C Hawkins	98

BETTING: Evens Ringmore, 9-4 Richards Bay, 6-1 Straight Down, 7-1 Impage.

1988: KEVINSFORT 10-12-7 M Dwyer (Evens fav) Jimmy Fitzgerald 4 ran

Course specialists

TRAINERS	Winners	Runners	Per cent
T Barron	4	7	57.1
Denys Smith	6	27	22.2
N Tinkler	4	18	22.2
G Moore	5	25	20.0
R Fisher	3	18	16.6
J S Wilson	5	30	16.7

JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	Per cent
M Dwyer	14	38	36.8
G McCourt	6	20	30.0
P Niven	15	57	26.3
S Turner	5	19	26.3
C Grant	7	32	21.9
M Hammond	5	23	21.7

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1.15 RIPPIN GROUP CHRISTMAS MAIDEN HURDLE (£1,688: 2m) (15 runners)

No	Form	Horse	Rider	Rating
1	223	ATHENS GATE 8 (BF) (D Douglas) N Tinkler 5-10-12	G McCourt	●99
2	4/4323	EXCITING PROSPECT 15 (P Green) J J O'Neill 5-10-12	M Dwyer	92
3	504	GREAT LAW 12 (J Walby) W A Stephenson 4-10-12	C Grant	85
4	030-323	HEIR OF EXCITEMENT 58 (D Hetherington) A Stringer 4-10-12	J J Quinn	86
5	2-	HOPPING AROUND 30F (Racegoers Club) C Thornton 5-10-12	D Wilkinson	88
6	F0P-336	KING WILLIAM 11 (BF) (C Pennick) Denys Smith 4-10-12	P Niven	85
7	33-	LUCKY HUMBUG 190F (Hambleton Racing 1989 Plc) W Pearce 6-10-12	A Orkney	74
8	FP	MAN OF MAUN 10 (F Sharp) R Earnshaw 4-10-12	Gar Lyons (3)	—
9		MARK-EDEN 915F (D Haughey) G Moore 6-10-12	M Hammond	—
10	82-22	TOWER STEPS 8 (A Bell) C Parker 4-10-12	B Storey	95
11	06	WIMBORNE 17 (D McKenzie) R Bastiman 4-10-12	L Wyer	72
12	PP-F	BELLA SOFIE 11 (J Hickie) I Semple 5-10-7	J K Kinane	—
13	U	BRIERY FILLE 8 (C Cole) R Dods 4-10-7	S Woods (5)	89
14		IN GLORY 73F (Mrs P Barker) Mrs P Barker 5-10-7	C Hawkins	—
15	6-	CORAIN LASS 285 (T Goldie) T Goldie 6-10-7	D Poole (7)	—

BETTING: 15-8 Exciting Prospect, 3-1 Athens Gate, 11-2 Hopping Around, 15-2 Heir Of Excitement, 8-1 Briery Fille, 10-1 King William, 12-1 others.

1988: NATURALLY AUTUMN 4-10-7 A Orkney (25-1) R Barr 11 ran

1.45 CHARTING DEVELOPMENTS SANTA CLAUS HANDICAP CHASE (£3,870: 3m 1f) (3 runners)

No	Form	Horse	Rider	Rating
1	334-14F	STAY ON TRACKS 31 (C,F,G,S) (P Piller) W A Stephenson 7-12-0	C Grant	●99
2	2-21214	CHIPCHASE 29 (D,F,G,S) (S Orchard) B Wilkinson 9-10-0	J Callaghan (7)	95
3	40611-0	THREEPLAND 7 (CD,F,G,S) (A MacDonald) R Fisher 6-10-0	P Niven	85

Long handicap: Chipchase 9-9, Threepland 9-8.

BETTING: 1-2 Stay On Tracks, 5-2 Chipchase, 15-2 Threepland.

1988: COMERAGH KING 9-11-12 M Dwyer (8-11 fav) Jimmy Fitzgerald 3 ran

2.15 BRIGGS AMASCO CHRISTMAS CAROL SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,422: 3m) (11 runners)

No	Form	Horse	Rider	Rating
1	233623	NEW KINGSGROVE 12 (CD,F,G,S) (Drummohr) P Monteith 10-11-11	L O'Hara (5)	90
2	615-634	HA'PENNY NAP 24 (D,BF,F,S) (Mrs B Ramsden) C Beever 11-11-1	M McGiff (7)	●99
3	1302P/	W SIX TIMES 665 (F,G,S) (J Parkes) J Parkes 12-10-9	M Dwyer	—
4	4342F6	JAUNTY GIG 14 (BF) (W A Stephenson) W A Stephenson 3-10-0	C Grant	97
5	600/00	SLIP DANCER 7 (A Munro) R Allan 5-10-0	R Marley	—
6	0P503-0	QUEENS PALACE 17 (G) (R Rowlinson) Miss S Wilton 11-10-0	L Wyer	78
7	P0-0P	RANDOM WARRIOR 32 (Mrs G Lister) J Parkes 5-10-0	N Smith (7)	—
8	0056-0	MR DUDLEY 17 (F Storey) F Storey 4-10-0	B Storey	—
9	0-U0	BALTIMORE TO PARIS 14 (V) (J Watson) P Liddle 4-10-0	P Niven	—
10	080	LYNDEN LASS 24 (R Dods) R Dods 3-10-0	S Woods (5)	—
11	0/P0P0-P	SHERPAMAN 17 (G Kelly) G Kelly 7-10-0	C Ryan (7)	—

Long handicap: Jaunty Gig 9-12, Slip Dancer 9-8, Queens Palace 9-2, Random Warrior 9-1, Mr Dudley 9-1, Baltimore To Paris 9-0, Lynden Lass 8-6, Sherpaman 7-6.

BETTING: 6-4 Jaunty Jig, 5-2 New Kingsgrove, 11-2 Ha'penny Nap, 8-1 Queens Palace, 12-1 Random Warrior, 20-1 Slip Dancer, 25-1 others.

1988: HECKLEY LOCH 4-10-10 R Garritty (3-1 jt-fav) T Barron 9 ran

2.45 KPC REJOICE AND BE MERRY NOVICES CHASE (£2,217: 2m) (3 runners)

No	Form	Horse	Rider	Rating
1	10-F321	MISTER POINT 8 (D,G,S) (M Battle) M H Easterby 7-11-7	L Wyer	●99
2	08-0F0P	DIRECT INTEREST 11 (Denys Smith) Denys Smith 6-11-0	A Merrigan	—
3	3-45540	TAMERTOWN LAD 11 (F) (D Kerr) A Potts 8-11-0	T Potts (7)	81

BETTING: 2-9 Mister Point, 13-2 Tamertown Lad, 8-1 Direct Interest.

1988: GOLD OPTIONS 6-11-0 M Dwyer (11-8 fav) Jimmy Fitzgerald 6 ran

3.15 CRAIGMILLAR OPPORTUNITIES TRUST YULETIDE HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,795: 2m) (14 runners)

No	Form	Horse	Rider	Rating
1	15105/	MEADOW MOOR 818 (D,F,G,S) (L Munro) R Lamb 6-12-0	K Jones	—
2	112600	MERITMOORE 31 (D,S) (G Borek) G Moore 6-11-12	M Hammond	—
3	12-3333	BEAU GUEST 17 (D,F,G) (W Sellers) J Parkes 7-11-9	N Smith (7)	97
4	42-4000	GENERALS BOY 10 (D,F,S) (P Craggs) J J O'Neill 7-11-7	Mr P Craggs	98
5	31324-8	MACARTHUR 10 (C,D,F,G) (Mrs A Henson) M W Easterby 4-11-6	Gar Lyons (3)	●99
6	54880-0	DAWN COYOTE 35 (D,S) (J Stoker) S Leadbetter 8-11-3	J Hansen	85
7	434353	GOLDEN FANCY 12 (C,D,F,G,S) (N Alexander) C Alexander 12-11-1	S Turner	93
8	8216/P	SMART JACK 10 (C,F,S) (S Marsh) R Fisher 8-11-0	P Niven	—
9	803-152	RICH NEPHEW 21 (D,F) (D McDougall) C Weedon 4-10-12	—	93
10	36-86P4	PIT PONY 8 (D,V,G,S) (Mrs H Beattie) J S Wilson 5-10-10	L Wyer	98
11	8-2120	KINGS GUEST 7 (D,F) (A McLuckie) J J O'Neill 4-10-8	F Murtagh (7)	91
12	3160-05	YOUNG PAGEANT 12 (V,D,F) (R Dods) R Dods 5-10-0	S Woods (5)	98
13	0/P05/F	ITMA 28 (R Gibbons) R Allan 6-10-0	R Hurley	—
14	42-P8P4	FAITHFUL DON 12 (D,F,G) (Mrs L Hall) Mrs L Hall 10-10-0	G Harker	86

Long handicap: Itma 9-8, Faithful Don 9-5.

BETTING: 11-4 Rich Nephew, 3-1 Meritmoore, 4-1 Beau Guest, 6-1 Golden Fancy, 8-1 Pit Pony, 10-1 Faithful Don, 14-1 others.

1988: APPLE WINE 11-10-12 M Dwyer (14-1) D Chapman 11 ran

HEREFORD

Selections

By Mandarin

12.30 General Pershing (if abs Hill's Halo). 1.0 Wycombe Lady. 1.30 Oregon Trail. 2.5 Lilac Time. 2.35 Karakter Reference. 3.5 Roscoff. 3.35 Prince Bold.

Going: heavy

12.30 COLTSFOOT NOVICES HURDLE (3-Y-O: £1,954: 2m) (17 runners)

No	Form	Horse	Rider
1		CAPTAIN BONKERS 145F M Clutterbuck 11-0	—
2	0	CHEEKY FOX 29 J Bosley 11-0	M Bosley
3		FAR OUT 173F T Bailey 11-0	—
4	0	GEE DOUBLE YOU 21 D Haydn Jones 11-0	C Llewellyn
5	3	GENERAL PERSHING 31 F Jordan 11-0	—
6		HILL'S HALO 136F J Edwards 11-0	T Morgan
7		MAN FOR ALL SEASON 53F J Baker 11-0	W McFarland (3)
8		MASTER THATCHER A Chamberlain 11-0	W Morris
9	0	MO ICHI DO 21 Miss S Wilton 11-0	—
10		MORE BY LUCK 154F R Holder 11-0	N Mann (7)
11		PHILIPPONNAT 74F A Leighton 11-0	C Smith
12		SILENT WISH Miss A Whitfield 11-0	R Teague (7)
13	35	KOWZA 38 Mrs A Knight 10-9	G Knight
14	0	MARINERS SECRET 38 R Brazington 10-9	R Beggan
15		SAINT SYSTEMS 124F R Hodges 10-9	Mr C Maude (7)
16	P	STRADEY CASTLE 9 K Bridgwater 10-9	—
17		TEACHER'S DRAM 47F R Dickin 10-9	M Jones (5)

● General Pershing also engaged 1.20 Chepstow

4-5 General Pershing, 7-2 Hill's Halo, 6-1 Kowza, 8-1 Saint Systems, 12-1 Gee Double You, 14-1 others.

1.0 COWSLIP CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS SELLING HURDLE (£1,688: 2m) (15)

No	Form	Horse	Rider
1	3P-0	UP THE LADDER 32 (D,G,S) D Wintle 5-11-9	P McDermott (3)
2	850-	NUNS ROYAL 259 (B,S) R Juckes 5-11-4	A Juckes (5)
3	0-P	BACCAROLE 3 Mrs A Knight 4-11-0	D Matthews (7)
4	-054	KRYPTON KNIGHT 15 D R Tucker 4-11-0	W Sterry (7)
5	0-P0	MOTTRAM'S GOLD 40 (V) R Dickin 4-11-0	M Jones
6	000-	REGALCROFT 175F D Haydn Jones 5-11-0	P Barnard
7	P46-	SEXTON 252 N Ayliffe 4-11-0	S Foster (5)
8	0	TINSEL ROSE 25 (D,G) R Hodges 6-10-13	M Fitzgerald (5)
9	0/P-	BET OLIVER 442 D Jermy 6-10-9	J Brown (5)
10	0-3	DAWN BELL 18 (BF) J Roberts 4-10-9	—
11	P-0P	ENCHANTED CROSS 15 D Wintle 4-10-9	I Shoemark
12		PARKLANDS BELLE 45F R Hodges 5-10-9	—
13	P-P	PREWSTYLE 19 (V) D Gandolfo 4-10-9	W Humphreys
14	0	SPANISH MOU 44 M Eckley 4-10-9	S Arnold (7)
15	05-4	WYCOMBE LADY 51 K Bishop 5-10-9	—

5-2 Dawn Bell, 7-2 Parklands Belle, 9-2 Wycombe Lady, 6-1 Krypton Knight, 7-1 Up The Ladder, 8-1 Sexton, 10-1 others.

Course specialists

TRAINERS: S Muldoon, 3 winners from 3 runners, 100.0%; J Edwards, 15 from 65, 23.1%; T Forster, 14 from 63, 22.2%; Miss S Wilton, 3 from 14, 21.4%; J Honeyball, 3 from 17, 17.6%; R Brazington, 6 from 36, 16.7%.

JOCKEYS: R Beggan, 10 winners from 45 rides, 22.2%; K Burke, 3 from 14, 21.4%; S Earle, 9 from 49, 18.4%; C Llewellyn, 4 from 32, 12.5%; Gee Armytage, 5 from 43, 11.6%; C Smith, 7 from 66, 10.6%.

1.30 CLOVES CHASE (£2,355: 2m 3f) (5)

No	Form	Horse	Rider
1	-20F	RUSTSTONE 21 (CD,G,S) R Brown 9-11-8	J Brown (7)
2	1-3P	TENESAINT 35 (C,F,G,S) C Saunders 8-11-9	Mrs J Saunders
3	R12-	BASILEA 280 (S) T Forster 6-11-3	C Llewellyn
4	33F-	OREGON TRAIL 318 (F,G,S) S Christian 9-11-3	R Beggan
5	5/4-	BIETSCHHORN HUT 386 (G,S) D Gandolfo 7-10-11	W Humphreys (3)

4-6 Oregon Trail, 9-2 Ruststone, 11-2 Tenesaint, 7-1 Basilea, 12-1 Bietschhorn Hut.

2.5 CORIANDER NOVICES CLAIMING HURDLE (3-Y-O: £1,842: 2m 3f) (14)

No	Form	Horse	Rider
1	4R2	GO GO GORGEOUS 12 F Jordan 11-2	—
2	F045	ISOBAR 37 (V,C,F) S Muldoon 10-11	—
3	P	TUCK BOX 119 J White 10-11	K Burke
4	066	MISS POKEY 31 R Holder 10-8	N Mann (7)
5	P	CHICAS DELIGHT 52 M Davies 10-7	W Knox
6	P00	KARLOVAC 12 C Broad 10-7	A Carroll
7	34	LILAC TIME 15 R Hollinshead 10-7	—
8	444	MUSICAL MOMENTS 15 J Roberts 10-4	—
9	20	JUNE'S FANCY 15 D R Tucker 10-2	—
10		LADY PAY Mrs J Evans 10-2	R Greene (7)
11	0F4	MISS PATDONNA 30 B Palling 10-2	C Evans
12		TROJAN ROSE J Bakowski 10-2	J Short
13	00	ESPECIALLY BOLD 37 Miss H Knight 10-1	R Beggan
14	0B	KARFIA 12 William Price 10-0	C Llewellyn

11-4 Go Go Gorgeous, 7-2 Lilac Time, 9-2 Isobar, 6-1 Miss Pokey, 7-1 Musical Moments, 8-1 June's Fancy, 12-1 others.

2.35 COMFREY HANDICAP CHASE (£3,135: 3m 1f) (7)

No	Form	Horse	Rider
1	PP-F	ITS ALL VERY FINE 16 (G,S) Miss H Knight 8-11-13	Mr D Naylor Leyland
2	0FP-	SANDICLIFFE BOY 254 (S) R Lee 8-11-11	B Dowling
3	1B12	KARAKTER REFERENCE 17 (F) L Corbett 7-11-8	—
4	P-0P	OGENDEBA 19 (S) P Bailey 9-11-7	Mr E Bailey (7)
5	4P-5	THE QUOKEE 37 (S) J Baker 7-11-3	W McFarland (3)
6	-51F	TEWTRELL LAD 23 (F) J Bukovets 8-10-13	J Short
7	0P/P	NOTRE CHEVAL 57 (CD,S) J Honeyball 10-10-8	Peter Hobbs

5-4 Karakter Reference, 3-1 Tewtrell Lad, 4-1 It's All Very Fine, 7-1 Ogendeba, 8-1 Sandicliffe Boy, 16-1 others.

3.5 CARAWAY NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£2,591: 2m) (10)

No	Form	Horse	Rider
1	50-F	BOLD KING'S HUSSAR 45 (G,S) Mrs S Armytage 6-12-0	Gee Armytage
2	2212	TIPTONIAN 66 (F,G) K Bridgwater 10-11-1	P Dever
3	P4U-	TOPKAPI 386 (F) J White 6-10-8	K Burke
4	0F-1	ROMAN DART 32 (D,G) M Scudamore 9-10-7	—
5	/5-5	SMILE AGAIN 46 Miss H Knight 5-10-6	R Beggan
6	640-	TAXI LAD 271 (S) R Brazington 5-10-4	C Llewellyn
7	-U42	ROSCOFF 25 P Hobbs 7-10-3	Peter Hobbs
8	0-P5	RUNAWAY TRAIN 7 R Hodges 6-10-2	Mr C Maude (7)
9	FU00	DENROSS 33 J Elliott 8-10-0	R Guest
10	00PF	MIDNIGHT RUN 38 (G) R Dickin 10-10-0	S Earle

2-1 Roman Dart, 3-1 Tiptonian, 7-2 Roscoff, 5-1 Smile Again, 8-1 Bold King's Hussar, 10-1 others.

3.35 WIN WITH THE TOTE HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,276: 2m 3f) (10)

No	Form	Horse	Rider
1	1211	KAMEO STYLE 24 (CD,F,G) F Jordan 6-12-8	—
2	/61-	HADDON LAD 387 (C,F,S) Miss A King 6-12-0	R Bellamy (5)
3	160-	PRINCE BOLD 247 (B,S) Miss S Wilton 6-11-1	—
4	13-8	HIGH BID 37 (S) William Price 4-10-12	A Price (7)
5	345-	TERRA DI SIENA 303 (F,S) P Hobbs 7-10-7	Peter Hobbs
6	-041	BOLD IMPRESSION 52 (G) J Parfitt 8-10-4	—
7	/40-	CHANTILLY LACE 268 (S) Mrs A Knight 5-10-3	G Knight
8	PP-P	CHRISTO 7 (S) D Wintle 7-10-0	A Carroll
9	P0F-	ROUGH CUT 277 R Juckes 4-10-0	A Juckes (7)
10		FORGE CLOSE 978 P Radford 8-10-0	D Morris

7-4 Kameo Style, 7-2 Bold Impression, 9-2 High Bid, 6-1 Haddon Lad, 8-1 Terra Di Sienna, 10-1 others.

LINGFIELD PARK

Selections

By Mandarin

12.45 Den's Song. 1.15 Yanbu. 1.45 Men Of Yorkshire. 2.15 Sea Shadow. 2.45 Thin Red Line. 3.15 Golden Fare.

Going: standard

12.45 TOINHA JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE (3-Y-O: £1,618: 2m) (12 runners)

No	Form	Horse	Rider
1	12	CONE LANE 63F (D,F) B Gubby 11-3	J White
2	1	POCKETED 88 (D,F) J Jenkins 11-3	M Perrett
3	1832	LIRCHUR 87 (F) A Moore 10-12	G Moore
4		DEN'S SONG 58F W Carter 10-10	Dale McKeown
5	8040	GREEN ISLAND 66 A Dunn 10-10	T Pinfield (5)
6		JUST CRUISE 8F K Ivory 10-10	D Gallagher (3)
7	0	LEIA MECENE 38 J Elliott 10-10	A Charlton (3)
8	3F4	PARKBRIDE 21 C Horgan 10-10	E Murphy
9	P5	SALLY FORTH 18 J Bostock 10-10	D Byrne (3)
10	223	SONAR 16 Pat Mitchell 10-10	J Leech (5)
11		ESPRIT DE FEMME 142F V Young 10-5	J Akehurst
12		LITTLE GOOSE GIRL 105F C Wildman 10-5	—

9-4 Sonar, 3-1 Pocketed, 4-1 Cone Lane, 6-1 Lirchur, 7-1 Parkbride, 8-1 Sally Forth, 10-1 others.

1.15 SELIA SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,336: 2m 4f) (6)

No	Form	Horse	Rider
1	3-01	YANBU 9 (B,D,F,S) J Jenkins 4-12-7 (7ex)	M Ahern (3)
2	-2P6	HASTY GAMBLE 37 (F,S) A Moore 9-11-7	G Moore
3	R0-5	HELLO ROCKY 16 Miss E Sneyd 8-10-13	D Gallagher (3)
4	F455	CHIEF RUNNER 15 (F) P Howling 7-10-4	—
5	-P00	MILE END 30 A Ridout 4-10-2	R Dennis
6	R06-	CLEAR GIN 211 A Taylor 5-10-0	Mr A Taylor

4-6 Yanbu, 3-1 Chief Runner, 6-1 Hello Rocky, 8-1 Mile End, 12-1 others.

Course specialists

TRAINERS: Mrs J Pitman, 6 winners from 38 runners, 15.8%. (Only qualifiers).

JOCKEYS: T Pinfield, 3 winners from 9 rides, 33.3%; Dale McKeown, 12 from 44, 27.3%; J White, 5 from 21, 23.8%. (Only qualifiers).

1.45 MEL FORDHAM RACEHORSE PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,562: 2m) (5)

No	Form	Horse	Rider
1	0-66	AVERON 42 (CD,G,S) C Wildman 9-11-13	B Wright
2	60-1	MEN OF YORKSHIRE 16 (CD) D Grissell 6-11-13	M Perrett
3	12P-	INVOLVED AGAIN 324 (D,S) F O'Mahony 4-11-4	M Kinane
4	4119	DISNEYLAND 51 (D,BF,F) Mrs J Pitman 5-11-3	J Tate (7)
5	6-02	MURHAF 11 (D,F) J Joseph 6-11-3	D Skyrme (5)

11-10 Men Of Yorkshire, 5-2 Disneyland, 7-2 Murhaf, 10-1 Involved Again, 12-1 Averon.

2.15 MARIA HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,238: 2m 2f) (7)

No	Form	Horse	Rider
1	1431	PLAZA GIZON 16 (C,F) J Jenkins 4-12-0	M Perrett
2	P11F	SEA SHADOW 3 (B,CD,BF,F) E Wheeler 4-11-9	J White
3	41-1	MISS ME NOT 16 (CD,F,G) B Wise 7-11-5	M Furlong
4	-45P	GOLD 'N SOFT 9 (V,G,S) J O'Shea 5-10-9	D Byrne (3)
5	F-20	FORTOLD 18 (D,F,S) G Wareham 11-10-7	E McKinley
6	-064	DOC'S COAT 40 (F) C Wildman 4-10-4	D Gallagher (3)
7	0P-2	SUPER JULES 37 (S) J Old 4-10-0	P Davies (7)

5-2 Sea Shadow, 3-1 Plaza Gizon, 7-2 Miss Me Not, 9-2 Super Jules, 8-1 Fortold, 10-1 Doc's Coat, 12-1 Gold 'N Soft.

2.45 GLAUCIA NOVICES HURDLE (£1,562: 2m 2f) (8)

No	Form	Horse	Rider
1	P0-1	THIN RED LINE 6 (V,S) J Jenkins 5-11-7	M Ahern (3)
2	-586	ANOTHER SEASON 47 D Browning 5-11-0	J Akehurst
3	0-P0	ELYSIAN WARRIOR 29 E Wheeler 4-11-0	J White
4	65-F	SAN FRANCISCO JOE 53 A Denson 5-11-0	J Leech (5)
5	0/P	SPITE AND MALICE 11 Mrs P Townsley 7-11-0	M Furlong
6	8	CARELESS KISS 31 A Moore 5-10-9	G Moore
7	88/	QUICK RIPOSTE 629 A Casey 5-10-9	B Wright
8	P-P6	STRAIGHT GIN 16 (F) A Taylor 6-10-9	Mr A Taylor

5-4 Thin Red Line, 3-1 Another Season, 9-2 Straight Gin, 6-1 San Francisco Joe, 8-1 Elysian Warrior, 10-1 others.

3.15 SELMA STAKES NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,310: 1m 5f) (4)

No	Form	Horse	Rider
1	2	GOLDEN FARE 70 R Eckley 4-11-0	M Jackson (7)
2	00-	HILL-WAY BLUES 265 A Ridout 4-11-0	W Bellamy (7)
3	0-	RAWLSBURY 255 A Casey 4-11-0	D Gallagher (3)
4		HALE'S MELODY Mrs P Townsley 4-10-9	Lucy Townsley (7)

1-4 Golden Fare, 5-1 Hill-Way Blues, 12-1 Rawlsbury, 20-1 Hale's Melody.

A dead cert fretting for higher stakes

SPORT IN THE 1990s

Continuing our series in which the great names of the 1980s consider their sport's future, Virginia Leng calls for equestrianism to adopt a higher profile

The most important aim for three day eventing in the 1990s is to achieve a greater public awareness. We are the most successful nation in the world at eventing but the sport has a relatively low profile.

Unless we make it more interesting to the media we are going to lose our sponsors. It is a problem which we can all help to solve — that is why we have recently formed the International Event Riders Association, so riders can play a part in the development of the sport.

Higher prize-money throughout the sport would be one way of attracting more media coverage. If you go to a horse trial and the first prize is £500 Joe Public is not interested. Snooker and darts never used to be televised sports but as soon as the prize-money started to increase the television and media got interested. I wonder if sports editors would find it a more interesting sport if there was higher prize-money?

Badminton, which is our most difficult three-day event and where riders risk injury to life and limb, offered a first prize this year of £9,000 — the highest prize in Britain. A first prize of, say, £20,000 is not going to change the sport radically — and it is a tiny figure in comparison with show jumping prize money. Riders in North America can win £80,000 in one class.

What we have to remember is that the sport's appeal lies in its clean-cut reputation. We do not want to damage this image. Some might worry that higher prize-money might increase the pressure on the horses but I think it will be the opposite. Good prize-money will make riders all the more determined to keep their horses fit and well.

I think we also have to concentrate in the 1990s on widening the spectrum from which the competitors are drawn both on the national and international front. Eventing in Britain has always been associated with a certain type of person — basically people who could afford to do it. I think anyone should be able to participate — as happens in the United States where many of the competitors are housewives, doctors etc with ages ranging from 17 to 65, and they compete at pre-novice level.

When I take clinics in the States out of 60 riders maybe only about 15 are of intermediate level. It all leads back to media coverage to encourage sponsors to build more courses at a pre-novice level so more can participate. The sport will then become more popular through the range of different people taking part.

The international scene is a big worry. If the sport is to retain its standing we have to encourage as many other countries as possible. We are very privileged in Britain to have the enthusiasm of organizers, the venues, course builders, competitors and horses. But it is useless for us to go on improving in Great Britain if we do not have the opposition. Sport will become a nonsense.

There are already encouraging signs. France is making big moves to build better one-day event courses — something West Germany also needs to do. The Seoul Olympics did a lot to encourage less traditional eventing nations such as Korea and Japan. The East Europeans are also becoming more interested. At the Lion d'Angers three-day event in France this year the Polish team were very keen to ask me questions about the cross-country so I ended up by walking the course with them explaining how I would tackle it. They were very enthusiastic and I loved every minute of it because I felt I was doing something constructive. It is the first time I have been allowed to help the Polish team.

I think the introduction of an eventing World Cup series — run on similar lines to the show jumping one — would be a good idea because this would bring in more countries. It would be important to make sure it was the right standard — so as many as possible could participate. By restricting riders to one horse throughout the series it would encourage people to save their horse for a particular event and so dissuade riders from overrunning their horses.

Another effective way of encouraging greater participation is to carry on improving the cross-country courses. I would like to see more cross-country courses built on the lines of this year's Burghley which was one of the best cross-country courses I have ridden round. Mark Phillips, the course designer, constructed a big, technical course with plenty of interesting but time-consuming alternatives for those who did not want to tackle the direct route.

It all hinges on getting the timing right. It is no good if a rider can still go inside the time by taking the easier route but it is also no good building a course just for the top 15 riders. If the timing has been worked out accurately you will get the right result because you are going to dare people to jump the bigger route. With plenty of good course builders about — Wolfgang Feld, of West Germany, Mark Phillips and Mike Etherington-Smith are my favourites — I am hopeful that courses in the 1990s will move on in the way begun at Burghley.

The cost of covering the cross-country is often used as an excuse for television's lack of interest in the sport but Burghley also proved that it is possible to build courses more geared to television cameras without ruining the event. It was a cheaper project for television but still exciting.

I think we should also try and have more one-day events run on similar lines to Gatcombe which is perfect for television. The course is compact and therefore easy to cover and the riders go in reverse order of merit which builds up the excitement. The formula has been criticized for being "gimmicky" but I think it is fine as long as the commentator does not influence the rider by encouraging him, over the loudspeaker, to go faster than he would normally go.

Whatever changes take place we must continue to show by example that eventing is a good, healthy sport with the welfare of the horses the main concern. There has been talk of altering the format of the three-day event to make it less taxing for the horses and I would support further reductions in the lengths of the steeplechase course. It has already been reduced from five to 4½ minutes — a reduction which could have a beneficial effect on the length of a horse's competitive life. A four minute steeplechase would be adequate to prove that a horse can jump at speed.

Because of the FEI's (International Equestrian Federation) concern about drug abuse I can see a total ban on the pain-killing drug Bute being implemented in the 1990s. This would worry me because someone will then come up with something far worse that is not detectable. Although it is not my policy to use drugs including Bute I think Bute does have its place — particularly on the Saturday night after the cross-country when it can ease stiffness and soreness. It is like giving an aspirin for a headache — provided it is not masking an injury.

Another concern for the 1990s is the place of equestrianism in the Olympics. There has been a suggestion that it could be removed on the grounds of expense and too few participating nations. I think this would be very sad but if we act now to try to improve the standing of the sport we can prevent this.

The dirty word at the end of the day is money. We want more money to expand and develop the sport and it is up to us to think of ways of generating that money.

● *Interview: Jenny MacArthur*

BOXING DAY

Peter Shilton on football

JAMES GRAY

Winning peak: Medals and a trophy for Leng after winning the eventing title at Burghley in September

RUGBY LEAGUE

Two more out for eight matches

By Keith Macklin

The crackdown on high tackles continued yesterday when Wally Gibson, of Huddersfield, and Logan Edwards, of Rochdale Hornets, received eight-match suspensions from the disciplinary committee.

However, there was mercy for Duncan Platt, the Oldham full back, who was charged with tripping in the match against St Helens last Sunday. Platt was suspended for only two matches, indicating that the videotape of the Regal Trophy tie had not revealed the offence as calculated or cynical.

Tony Barrow, the Oldham coach, said yesterday: "In my opinion there was no offence at all. Paul Groves, the St Helens player, just fell over Platt." Barrow last night was asking the appeals committee to reconsider Platt's case.

St Helens meet the leading second division side, Halifax, at Central Park, Wigan, in today's televised first semi-final of the Regal Trophy, cheered by the news that Jonathan Griffiths, their Welsh half back, and George Mann, their New Zealand front-row forward, are expected to be fit. Mann replaces David Cosgrove, who is injured, and Mark Bailey stands by to deputize for Griffiths if Alex Murphy, the coach, decides that Griffiths is not completely match fit.

Halifax are looking for a third win over first division opposition, having disposed of Salford and Featherstone Rovers in previous rounds. Having played some excellent rugby in recent weeks, Halifax seem certainties for promotion. They will be confident of beating Saints, who have been crippled with injuries and have struggled to find top form.

Although St Helens will be looking for their thirteenth game without defeat, some of their wins have been streaky and blessed with luck, as in last Sunday's tie with Oldham, when the sending-off of Platt played an important part.

Murphy is aware of the Halifax threat. He said yesterday: "Halifax are a second division side in name only, and they will give us a tough fight."

The Halifax inspiration stems from John Dorahy, their player-coach whose scheming and tactical kicking create openings which have led to a spate of tries from Wilf George, the winger.

Brimah Kebbie, the Widnes wing, who has scored 16 tries in 13 games, has asked for a transfer after being left out of the team at Barrow last Sunday. Doug Laughton, the Widnes coach, said that Kebbie had been omitted for missing a training session and that John Devereux, who had replaced him, had played well enough to retain his place.

● Bradford Northern have signed Henderson Gill, the Great Britain winger, from Wigan for a fee of £30,000, subject to a medical examination.

TABLE TENNIS

ETTA chairman threatens to resign

By Richard Eaton

John Prean, chairman of the English Table Tennis Association, has threatened to resign following the accusation of favouritism towards his son Carl, made by another former England No. 1, Desmond Douglas.

Prean senior made an unexpected and angry outburst at the late night reception on Thursday after the Macartney and Dowie Classic at Brentwood, which Carl won by beating Douglas 21-19, 19-21, 21-10 in the final.

"If people want me to go then I am prepared to," the chairman said. "I have never shown favouritism towards my son, rather the reverse, and I object to having someone accuse me through the Press when my door is always open to hear complaints."

Prean, who has supervised a remarkable revival of the game's fortunes during his three-year tenure, offered to quit earlier in the year if there was much opposition to him.

While he will almost certainly be given a vote of confidence if he stands again for the chairmanship, Prean's current mood is such that there must be a slight question mark over whether he will allow his name to go forward again.

Douglas made his criticisms because of Carl's withdrawal from the National Top 12 tournament and the English rankings, as a protest at the way in which they are calculated.

The results on Thursday, which included a semi-final win for Douglas over the current England No. 1 Alan Cooke, lent support to his belief that his rival's withdrawal devalues the rankings.

Douglas also thinks that whereas he might have been reprimanded or punished for doing the same thing, the chairman's son has been allowed to get away with it.

Prean senior is reported to have stood down from the management committee that considered Carl's request to withdraw from the rankings and the real question is whether others showed favouritism to the chairman's son.

Allegations about the Top 12 withdrawal do not appear to hold water as Carl is contracted to Grenzau in the German Bundesliga and apparently had no choice but to represent his club.

An otherwise outstandingly successful tournament provided a further controversy when the organizer, Peter Linnecar, accused the England international, Matthew Syed, of being "unprofessional" after failing to appear on time, saying the player would not be invited again.

Syed, who was delayed by traffic jams in London, subsequently made a request for loser's prize-money, which was immediately rejected, prompting Linnecar to comment: "He could not even have arrived on time to practice or prepare properly, so he's not professional from that point of view.

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	U	Conditions Piste	Off/P	Runs to resort	Weather + temp (5pm)	°C	Last snow fall
AUSTRIA								
St Anton	20	60	fair	cruet	art	cloud	4	19/12
Pistes holding up well despite lack of snowfall								
FRANCE								
Chamonix	—	—	—	—	—	rain	6	22/12
Snow falling above 2000m. Limited skiing at brevent								
Tignes	20	130	good	powder	closed	snow	-1	22/12
Excellent glacier skiing. Limited skiing on Col du Palet and L'aguille percee.								
SWITZERLAND								
Verbier	5	40	good	fair	closed	snow	-1	22/12
Fresh snow giving good skiing above 2000m								

In the above reports, supplied by representatives of the Ski Club of Great Britain, L refers to lower slopes and U to upper, and art to artificial.

SCOTLAND

Cairngorm: Conditions: snow level, 2000ft; vertical runs, nil; Runs: upper, dusting of snow; not enough for skiing; middle, not enough snow for skiing; lower, no snow; access roads clear; chairlifts, car park open; tows no tows open. Additional information: only a few snow patches at the top. **Glenshee:** Conditions: insufficient snow for skiing; access roads open; no tows operating. **Lecht:** Conditions: snow level, 2000ft; vertical runs, 500ft; Runs: main, one complete, (Buzzard), hard packed snow, icy patches; beginner, one complete, (Robin), hard packed snow, narrow in places; access roads clear; tows, Buzzard and Robin operating. **Aonach Mor:** Conditions: snow level, 3300ft; vertical runs, nil; Runs: upper, patchy snow, unskiable; lower, no snow; access roads clear; gondola lift not operating; snowgoose chairlift and all tows closed. **Glencoe:** Conditions: insufficient snow for skiing; access roads open. Forecast for the Scottish ski resorts for Saturday: Strong westerly winds will ease down, though later in the day southwesterly winds will start to freshen up in Glencoe. Most eastern resorts, although becoming cloudy, should stay dry until the afternoon when outbreaks of rain will turn to snow near the summits. Freezing levels will stay steady around the 3000ft mark throughout the day.

● Information supplied by the Scottish Meteorological Office.

HOCKEY

British are playing in Barcelona

By Sydney Friskin

Southgate, London University and the England World Cup squad, masquerading as **The Lions**, are among the overseas teams taking part in the annual Los Reyes tournament at the Real Club de Polo, Barcelona, from January 5 to 7.

This tournament will enable Southgate to plan their strategy for the latter part of the Poundstretcher national league, which will be resumed on March 4, and will also mark the initial stage of their preparation for the European club championship.

At Barcelona, Southgate will be unable to call on Kerly, Batchelor and Soma Singh, but they will have the opportunity to bring some of their younger players to the forefront, notably William Warr, a promising striker of short corners who until recently was England's under-16 captain.

London University, who have earned only two points and are still without a win in nine London league matches, are also hoping to raise their game at Barcelona. Their opponents over the three days of competition will be **Grange**, from Scotland, **Campo Real** and **Barcelona**, the host club.

The annual Boxing Day match between **Cheshire** and **Lancashire** will be played on Tuesday at Brooklands at three levels — juniors, seniors and veterans. Under the format adopted three years ago, the team emerging with the highest aggregate of points from the three matches will be declared winners of the trophy, which was won last year by Cheshire.

There has, however, been a slight change of policy in the Boxing Day match between the **Cheam President's XI** and the **Cheam First XI**. It will be played on artificial turf for the first time on Walcombians ground, Carshalton Road, Woodmansterne.

BOXING

Dispute over Andries bout

Dennis Andries, the light-heavyweight, of Hackney, is in line for a rematch with Jeff Harding, the WBC champion.

Emmanuel Steward, Andries's manager, has rejected an $80,000 (about £50,000) offer from Bill Mordey, Harding's manager. But John Morris, the British Boxing Board of Control secretary, said: "Dennis remains the No. 1 contender and Harding . . . will eventually have to make a mandatory defence against him."

RUGBY UNION: SOVIET UNION VISIT NORTHAMPTON AS ONE MAN MUSES ON WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN

Pegler is poised for England B record

By David Hands
Rugby Correspondent

When David Pegler leads out the England B team against the Soviet Union at Franklins Gardens, Northampton, today, he will be able to claim a slightly melancholy record. It will be his seventh appearance in B colours, more than any other Englishman, and it is melancholy in the sense that Pegler appears the perennial bridesmaid, destined never to step to the altar of a full cap.

In itself, that is a commentary on England's strength at open-side flanker: Winterbottom, Robinson and Rees have all had their chance, while other good players like Thornley (Leicester), Ian Smith (Gloucester), Tayler (Rosslyn Park) and Pegler himself have come so far and no further, aware that behind them come young men like Back, of Nottingham.

Nevertheless, December has been a good month for Pegler, and victory against the Soviets, who are without a win from their five-match visit to England, would be an excellent conclusion to the three weeks during which he led London to the divisional championship and earned himself a place in England's senior training squad next month. In itself, that prompts hope in a man whose cheery public demeanour is that of a distinct optimist.

There is an incentive for his colleagues, too, in that five places remain vacant in the squad for Lanzarote — three backs and two forwards. A late amendment to the XV will permit Etheridge, the Gloucester lock who played in Italy and Spain for the B team last season, to press for a place after the withdrawal with a back injury of Blackmore, of Bristol.

Richard Best, the B coach, offers little comfort to the Soviets when he anticipates his charges creating selection problems for the senior side. "It is up to these players to close the gap which has undoubtedly developed, and Mike Teague provides the perfect role model," he said yesterday.

"He refused to accept his days as an international player were at an end when he lost his place a few years ago, and has hauled himself back to the very top by sheer dedication and hard work. He is very much the senior player in this B team and his contribution has already been tremendous."

It would be wrong to say that the visitors have been disappointing because it was difficult to know what to expect of a team whose touring experience is desperately limited and who are, in any case, some six weeks out of their season.

That they can play rugby with skill and pace is incontestable — as their record in internationals on the Continent proves and as they have shown, yet only in flashes, in the draw with Cornwall and defeats against Combined Services, England Students and the Northern Division. But they have not sustained the quality, and they have come to grief with English refereeing interpretations.

The Rugby Football Union has offered technical assistance, the first instance of which has been coaching at Northampton this week from Barrie Corless.

"We have learned a lot about rugby, a lot of valuable knowledge which undoubtedly will help us to develop the sport on a vaster scale," Victor Masura, the Soviet coach, said.

There was solace from Best, too: "I think their results here probably reflect the growing strength of English rugby at least as much as any shortcomings in the Soviet team," he said. Solace, however, will go only so far today.

ENGLAND B: S Langford (Orrell); F Packman (Northampton), J Buckton (Saracens), F Clough (Wasps), E Davis (Harlequins); D Pears (Harlequins), S Bates (Wasps), M Linnett (Moseley); J Olver (Harlequins), A Mullins (Harlequins), M Skinner (Harlequins), D Baldwin (Sale), J Etheridge (Gloucester), D Pegler (Wasps, captain), M Teague (Gloucester).

SOVIET UNION: N Dzagradze (AIA Kutaisi); E Zuev (AIA Kutaisi), I Nechaev (Gagarin Academy), M Parshin (Slava Moscow), I Kuperman (ATS Krasnoyarsk); I Moronov (Gagarin Academy, capt), I Frantzusov (Gagarin Academy); Z Bakuradze (Almavik Tbilisi), R Maskov (Locomotiv Moscow), S Molchanov (Slava Moscow), A Sokolov (Locomotiv Moscow), M Pletnikov (Locomotiv Moscow), V Negodin (ATS Krasnoyarsk), S Sergeev (Fili Moscow), A Tikhonov (Gagarin Academy).

Referee: D Leslie (Scotland).

Anglo-Scots success a shift in axis of power

By Alan Lorimer

It is a measure of the dynamics in Scottish rugby that the two visiting teams in today's McEwan's inter-district championship matches, Glasgow and the Anglo-Scots, go into their respective games unbeaten.

The Anglo-Scots have extracted maximum points from their two games against what they would normally consider to be their main rivals for the title, South and Edinburgh. However, they achieved those victories by slender margins and if their opponents today, North and Midlands, are to exploit any weakness it is the Anglos' inability to capitilize proportionately on their forward pressure.

Edinburgh showed that their defence was vulnerable to fast transference of the ball and South, who scored an equally good try in similar manner, also demonstrated that the Anglos' powerful pack could be overcome by spirited forward play. North will need that latter quality in abundance if they are to stop the Anglos from winning.

North's cause has not been helped by the withdrawal of four of their pack. Both locks — Iain Paxton (Achilles strain) and Brian Bell (back spasms) — are out, as are Gregor Mackenzie, the prop, with flu, and Henry Edwards, the flanker, with an injured foot, which must make anything other than an Anglos win almost inconceivable.

Glasgow's chances of winning the McEwan's title depend initially on beating South at the Greenyards today. They will be looking to the strength of their Stirling County front row and a very mobile breakaway trio to win ball and use their fast back division, in which David Barrett at full back is likely to play an important part offensively.

Even without Derek Turnbull, who is injured, South's main strengths are in their back row and at scrum half, where Gary Armstrong is an attacking force.

There should be an interesting battle in the lineout between Doddie Weir, of South, and David Jackson, of Glasgow, both playing only their second senior district games.

Behind the scrum, David Shiel, at stand-off half, has become one of the great dropped goal exponents, while South have a fast back division containing two Scotland wings — Tony Stanger and Roger Baird — and a powerful centre combination in Andy Douglas and Harry Hogg, both, like Shiel, from the Jed-Forest club.

It is 15 years since Glasgow last beat South in the Borders. That is a daunting statistic for Glasgow, but one which should not affect their confident mood.

● A Welsh Cup match is costing Bristol £10,000 in lost takings and sponsorship this weekend. Llanelli have pulled out of a visit to the Memorial Ground in order to play their postponed fourth-round Schweppes Cup tie against Senghenydd.

But Bristol will have a match. After making nearly 80 telephone calls to find a club with a free date they will entertain Hereford, winners of their seven games in the Midlands first division this season. "It means we shall be able to salvage something and hopefully not all our sponsors will pull out," Bill Redwood, a Bristol official, said yesterday.

Pontypridd's two sinners are punished

In a week during which a Welsh club player, Richard Anthony, the Cross Keys lock, has been banned from the game for 33 weeks for abusing a referee, the Welsh Rugby Union could have done without the televised incidents during last weekend's fourth round of the Schweppes Welsh Cup when two Pontypridd players were sin-binned — one for stamping, the other for a high and dangerous tackle (David Hands writes).

The incidents have evoked an angry public response in the columns of the *Western Mail*, but it is encouraging that Pontypridd have taken steps to discipline the players concerned, Jim Scarlett, a lock, and Chris Jarman, the No. 8.

Having been involved in other televised incidents which have detracted from the club's reputation, Pontypridd said in a statement yesterday: "The club has instituted its own disciplinary procedure in respect of two players following Saturday's game against Llandeilo. The Welsh Rugby Union has been informed of the details."

Pontypridd have established their own disciplinary sub-committee, and it is expected that both players will be omitted from the team to play Cardiff on Boxing Day.

Meanwhile, it is hoped that two of the four postponed cup matches can be played today, at Newbridge, where Llantrisant are the visitors, and Ystrad Rhondda, who play host to Neath, the cup holders.

Newbridge have asked James, their recently-appointed captain following Turner's departure to Newport, to move from flanker to lock to cover for the unavailable Shaw

England hopefuls aim for early resumption

By David Hands

Two players who, but for injuries, might have been contending for places in the England squad, will be hoping to make an early impression in the new year. Dewi Morris and Dean Ryan will be casting glances at January 13, when league fixtures resume.

Morris, the Liverpool St Helens scrum half, was concussed during the divisional game between the North and London at Otley last weekend. At the same time he damaged muscles in his neck. But Liverpool would love to have him back in time for the second-division game at Richmond because both clubs have a chance of promotion.

Liverpool are third, on the same match points as London Irish, with Richmond one behind. "I feel we are a better side than last year and the players know now what is needed in first-division rugby," Morris said, referring to last season when they were relegated after only one season in the top flight.

Ryan, the uncapped Wasps No. 8, is in full training after breaking his arm for the second time. Although the first-division game between Wasps and Orrell may come a shade too early for him, a return to rugby on January 6 cannot be ruled out. More realistically, he may hope for a place in the Pilkington Cup match against Gloucester on January 27.

Liverpool play Wrexham on Boxing Day, hoping to have Simms in their side for the first time since September. The centre has been unavailable during term-time at Cambridge University, for whom he scored an interception try against Oxford at Twickenham last week.

Egerton, the England No. 8, hopes to return to rugby for Bath against Blackheath today, despite a bout of influenza which threatened to prolong an absence caused by damaged rib cartilages. The injury kept Egerton out of the divisional championship, but he will want to have a couple of games behind him before he joins England's training in Lanzarote next month.

Norster still inactive

Cardiff fear the long and distinguished career of their Welsh international forward, Robert Norster, may be over (Peter Bills writes).

Norster, capped by his country on 34 occasions, damaged a shoulder on the British Isles tour of Australia last summer. It is thought that an operation would be needed, to cure a sprung joint and ligament damage, to enable him to play again at the highest level.

The Cardiff coach, Alan Phillips said: "We all wish Bob well but I have to admit I wouldn't have thought he would be playing again at the top level. It would be a bonus if he did."

Norster, aged 32, has been the outstanding lineout jumper in British rugby through the 1980s. He says he misses playing but has been active on the coaching side. He has made no official announcement, wishing to keep his options open in the event of the injury healing naturally.

A fake Darwinism which pervades sport

It is not great ideas that change the way people think: it is the way great ideas are misunderstood or even wilfully distorted. Subtlety of conception, elegance of argument, and perfection of insight have no chance at all when faced with the juggernaut of half-comprehension.

"Ah well, it's all relative," people say, imagining they are sharing Einstein's insight. Freud is a man who invented a new kind of accidental double entendre. But perhaps the biggest and most spectacular misunderstanding in history is the one that links Charles Darwin with sport.

I was led to this thought by a splendid and recently published book, one I have mentioned before but which is well worth mentioning several times more, *Sport and the British* by Richard Holt (Oxford University Press). "By the time the [Olympic] Games came to London in 1908, individual eccentricity and utopianism had largely been crushed by the weight of national expectation," he writes.

"The British Press and public came to feel their 'racial virility' was on trial. The spread of a crude kind of social Darwinism was making nations increasingly sensitive about their sporting prowess. Sport would reveal 'the survival of the fittest.' "

This thinking, so accurately pinpointed by Holt, demonstrates not only a misunderstanding of the basic principles of Darwinism and of natural selection, but also a failure to understand the English language. Furthermore, this confusion is one that comes from sport in the first place.

The current understanding of the word "fit" refers to the ability to play sport. A "high level of fitness" means, in the context of sport, the possession of great strength and endurance. I used the word in this technical sense only the other day.

Sport is historically a masculine preserve, for all that things are, I am delighted to say, changing rapidly. Team sports, particularly, encouraged "manliness." To play any contact sport, you need to be aggressive, strong, and brave. Therefore fitness was equated with masculine strength and endurance.

Survival of the fittest: the law of the jungle: eat or be eaten: only the strong and aggressive can hope to survive: see how Darwinism is perverted into a totem of masculinity. Such a notion is at the heart of the crassest forms of social Darwinism about which Holt was writing: a kind of fake Darwinism that sport appears to demonstrate to perfection. By these standards, it is obvious that the lion is the fittest animal in creation: no wonder the rugby team couldn't wait to call itself British Lions.

In fact, lions are pretty useless animals: their function is that of a perambulating sperm bank. Not only do the lionesses do all the hunting and killing: observers now say that the pride is actually led by the senior lioness. A pride is a matriarchy.

Large carnivorous animals are regularly chosen as mascots or nicknames for sporting teams: eagles, tigers, wolves, bears and sea-hawks: animals that, through tooth and claw, have reached the top of the Darwinian scale.

And this is all complete nonsense. For a start, there is no such thing as a Darwinian scale. Evolution is a bush that forks and branches and bifurcates and which has a million growing tips. It is not a ladder at all. And that word "fittest": that is at the heart of all this muddle.

Fit means, as an adjective, "suited to the circumstances of the case, answering the purposes, proper or appropriate" according to my *Shorter Oxford*. Darwin was talking not about "survival of the strongest, manliest and most aggressive", but about the survival of the most suitable. It is not nearly such a thrilling concept at first sight: but it just happens to be the central principle of life on earth, so one may as well try to understand it correctly.

A species survives and increases in numbers not because it kills its rivals. It does so because it is suited to a particular ecological niche: better equipped than others to leave good numbers of offspring that survive and breed themselves. Grey squirrels did not "drive out" red squirrels by main force: it just happened that they were better suited to the country in which they found themselves: they bred and spread largely, it is has been suggested, because they can readily digest acorns, while red squirrels cannot, something that gave them a vital edge.

Survival is demonstrated more in flight than fight. In sport confrontation is all: in real life, the avoidance of confrontation is a survival mechanism that operates even in lions. Indeed, I have watched a pride of lions on a kill flee from me: I call that erring on the side of caution myself but it is still a lesson in how survivors survive.

The tiny creatures all around us are not "primitive", not blobs striving to adapt into mammals over the course of ages: nor are they losers in the adaptation race because of their insufficient ferocity: they are creatures admirably adapted to the survival of their genes. In short, life is not a battle for supremacy, but a kind of dynamic equilibrium. The threat to this equilibrium is not the ferocity of the dominant species, but its stupidity.

To be "fit", says the *Shorter Oxford*, can also mean "in good form or condition." The dictionary is at pains to point out that this is a specialized sporting use, but this is a use that has gained currency, and as it does so it has distorted our understanding of the major questions of life.

Darwin has been spectacularly misunderstood. To make this worse, he has then been dressed in sports kit, forced to wear the colours of his country, forced to become a justification for every kind of silly jingoisim that sport can bring us.

The trivialities of sport are a great pleasure but they have nothing to do with the real nature of the struggle for existence.

FOOTBALL: LONG-BALL GAME NOW REAPING REWARDS FOR FORMER WIMBLEDON MANAGER AT SHEFFIELD UNITED

Bassett is not for changing his tried and tested method

By Clive White

Dave Bassett allowed himself a wry smile this week when Arsenal became the pride of England (save perhaps on Merseyside), by defeating Rangers, the Scottish champions, on their own territory with a style of football not dissimilar to that which has drawn rather less honourable mentions when performed by the likes of Watford and Wimbledon.

Bassett has come to accept that what he describes as the "unacceptable face of football", rather depends upon who is wearing it. "Lukic dribbles the ball out of his box, smashes it 60 yards upfield for Quinn to head on and Davis runs through to score – and it's an Arsenal goal. You don't hear anybody saying that Arsenal are using the Wimbledon tactic," Bassett said.

Not that Bassett wants, nor expects, any credit for a style of football which, despite its many critics, continues to flourish at the sharp end of all four divisions of the English league. Bassett remains as unabashed as ever about the long-ball game which he has helped to promote.

He cannot wait to launch it once more on a suspecting first division with Sheffield United who, along with Leeds United – managed by Howard Wilkinson, a man with a similar tactical leaning – are threatening to run away with the second division.

Boxing Day brings the two clubs face to face at Bramall Lane and perhaps even more poignantly for Bassett, face to face for the first time in competition with the notorious Vinny Jones, the player he took from the building site straight into first division football, much to the despair of others.

"It was a good thing for him to come north and a good thing for him and Wimbledon to part company. They had become synonymous for ill discipline, which was a bit unfair in both cases. Vinny's nowhere near as dirty as he's made out to be. He's just enthusiastic; he loves playing football. We won't pay him any special attention, though."

Bassett yearns to do battle again with Liverpool. They may seem to be the antithesis of what Bassett stands for, yet he has nothing but admiration for them. "No one has ever come up with the answer of how to stop Liverpool. If you sit back, the inevitable will happen; you have to attack Liverpool, home or away. And that's easier said than done."

What Bassett objects to is how the media has made Liverpool the "acceptable face of football". He said: "The problem is that half the teams get mugged into playing the Liverpool way and they're nowhere near good enough at it, which is a great bit of selling by Liverpool of their kind of game. Teams try to play like Liverpool at Anfield and end up losing 9-0."

Bassett, however, expects Manchester United, who play Liverpool at Anfield in ITV's recorded match today, to be rather better equipped to take on Liverpool at their own game. Neither does he see the situation quite as critical for Alex Ferguson, the United manager, as others might suggest.

"I don't believe his position is as serious as people would have you believe," he said. "I fully expect him to see out the season at least. It's nonsense that a manager should be under pressure for not winning trophies. No one has a divine right to, no matter how much they spend on players.

"It could easily have gone wrong for Howard Wilkinson. He's brought in a lot of new players. But Howard knows how to win games. It doesn't surprise me that he has been successful."

Bassett places Liverpool and Arsenal head and shoulders above the rest but refuses to separate them. He said he tipped Arsenal to win the championship last season and believes their organization and unstinting support for each other will stand them in good stead.

"They get the ball forward more quickly than Liverpool and they have attacking players of quality like Rocastle and Merson. He impresses me and seems to get a lot of important goals for them."

Bassett's critics may be surprised to hear that he does not advocate the long-ball game at international level in all situations, but certainly most of them. "It's horses for courses, isn't it? If I was playing in Saudia Arabia I wouldn't have my team bombing around. But on a wet, cold night in November at Wembley against Brazil ... why not?

Pause for thought: Bassett is looking towards the first division and the might of Liverpool

CRICKET

Eventful return by Shakoor Rana as India collapse

From Qamar Ahmed, Lahore

Pakistan beat India by 38 runs here yesterday in the fourth and final one-day international which gave them the series by a 2-0 margin. Shakoor Rana, umpiring in his first major match since his infamous confrontation with Mike Gatting, was involved in two controversial decisions.

In a game restricted to 37 overs, following a delayed start, Pakistan could manage no more than 150 for eight after being put in. But the pitch, helpful to seam and spin, made strokeplay difficult and Pakistan were indebted to Ramiz Raja and Shoaib Mohammad, whose opening partnership of 45 was easily the best of the match.

Shastri, who broke through with his first delivery, was then involved in a questionable run out dismissal. Saeed Anwar, attempting a third run, failed to beat Ankol's throw to the bowler and was given out by Shakoor Rana, after he had consulted the fieldsman as to whether he had touched the boundary rope while in possession of the ball. Ankol said he had not, but TV replays seemed to show otherwise. Shakoor, of course, had no option other than to take the fieldsman's word.

Pakistan made 44 from their last six overs leaving India to score at a rate of 4.08 to achieve victory. But they were wrong-footed by two early wickets by Imran, who took a magnificent return catch to get rid of Siddhu.

Srikkanth and Manjrekar put on 31 runs for the third wicket but only because the Indian captain was dropped three times off the bowling of Waqar Younus.

At 31, Shakoor Rana gave him out lbw to the luckless Younus. But after Srikkanth had protested that he has played the ball the umpire reversed his decision, following a conversation with Imran. Next ball Srikkanth was caught at the wicket.

Aaqib Javed and Wasim Akram both took wickets with successive deliveries to hurry India to defeat, but the win was clouded by a mishap involving Ramiz Raja, who aggravated a damaged shoulder while fielding in the slips and could miss the early part of the forthcoming tour of Australia.

PAKISTAN

Shoaib Mohammad run out	26
Ramiz Raja c Manjrekar b Shastri	24
Saeed Anwar run out	7
Salim Malik c Razdan b Ankola	30
Wasim Akram b Manjrekar	1
Javed Miandad c Sidhu b Razdan	30
*Imran Khan c Sidhu b Prabhakar	14
†Saleem Yousuf c Razdan b Prabhakar	3
Abdul Qadir not out	0
Waqar Younus not out	2
Extras (lb 6, nb 2, w 5)	13
Total (8 wkts, 37 overs)	150

Aaqib Javed did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-45, 2-57, 3-68, 4-72, 5-108, 6-131, 7-144, 8-145.

BOWLING: Prabakhar 8-0-24-2; Razdan 8-0-37-1; Ankola 4-1-20-1; Lamba 1-0-9-0; Manjrekar 8-1-25-1; Shastri 8-0-29-1.

INDIA

*K Srikkanth c Yousuf b Waqar	31
R Lamba lbw b Imran	7
N S Sidhu c and b Imran	2
S V Manjrekar c Yousuf b Aaqib	13
M Azharuddin c Saeed b Aaqib	4
R J Shastri run out	12
M Prabhakar b Aaqib	0
†K S More c Qadir b Akram	6
S A Ankola c Yousuf b Akram	0
V Razdan st Yousuf b Qadir	18
Maninder Singh not out	2
Extras (lb 4, b 4, w 9)	17
Total (30.2 overs)	112

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-15, 2-18, 3-49, 4-66, 5-70, 6-70, 7-82, 8-82, 9-90.

BOWLING: Imran Khan 5-1-11-2; Wasim Akram 7-1-28-2; Aaqib Javed 8-1-26-3; Waqar Younus 7-0-27-1; Abdul Qadir 3.2-0-12-1.

Umpires: Khalid Aziz and Shakoor Rana.

Sri Lankans in a slapdash mood

Melbourne (AFP) – Weak batting by the touring Sri Lankans led to their defeat by 109 runs by Victoria in a 50-over match here yesterday.

With the opening batsman, Garry Watts, playing a fine innings of 111 the state side reached 257 for seven. Sri Lanka, needing to achieve a run-rate of 5.18 for victory, were dismissed for 148 in 42 overs.

Their captain, Arjuna Ranatunga said afterwards: "We batted really badly, there was no discipline at all and we threw our wickets away. Our fielding was very bad and we will need to practice a lot before the one-day match against Australia on Tuesday."

Only Ranatunga, with 45, and Aravinda de Silva, who made a quickfire 32, threatened to dominate the Victorian bowlers. De Silva batted like a man in a 10-over match and faced only 31 deliveries in half an hour.

The touring team had decided to rest their two key bowlers, Ravi Ratnayeke and Graeme Labrooy, and paid the price as the Victorians punished the medium pacers as well as Aravinda de Silva, who bowled only three overs for 23 runs.

VICTORIA

G Watts c Samarasekera b Wijegunawardene	111
W Ayres c and b Wijegunawardene	14
G Parker c Wijegunawardene b A Ranatunga	35
W B Phillips c Wijegunawardene b Ramanayake	26
J D Siddons not out	27
S P O'Donnell c Samarasekera b Wijegunawardene	19
A I C Dodemaide c D Ranatunga b Ramanayake	5
P Reiffel run out	8
Extras (b 2, lb 3, w 4, nb 3)	12
Total (7 wkts, 50 overs)	257

†M G D Dimattina, D Fleming and P W Jackson did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-31, 2-101, 3-178, 4-204, 5-225, 6-243, 7-257.

BOWLING: Ranayake 10-1-52-0 (2w); Ramanayake 10-1-47-2 (1w 1nb); Wijegunawardene 10-0-55-3 (1w 1nb); D Ranatunga 7-0-30-1; E A R de Silva 10-0-45-0; P A de Silva 3-0-23-0.

SRI LANKANS

R S Mahanama c Dimattina b Fleming	7
D Ranatunga b Jackson	25
A Gurusinha run out	0
P A de Silva b O'Donnell	32
†A Ranatunga c Reiffel b Phillips	45
A Samarasekera b Dodemaide	9
†H P Tillekeratne c Dimattina b Dodemaide	0
E A R de Silva run out	0
C P Ramanayake not out	15
J R Ratnayake c Dimattina b Jackson	0
K Wijegunawardene b O'Donnell	3
Extras (lb 9, nb 3)	12
Total (42 overs)	148

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-12, 2-14, 3-58, 4-81, 5-108, 6-108, 7-109, 8-143, 9-144.

BOWLING: Reiffel 6-0-23-0 (2nb); Fleming 7-2-23-1; O'Donnell 8-0-17-2 (1nb); Dodemaide 10-2-29-2; Jackson 10-0-26-2; Phillips 3-0-21-1.

Waddle is better for his move

Chris Waddle believes that his game has improved significantly since he joined the French club, Marseilles, for £4.25 million. The former Newcastle United and Tottenham Hotspur winger, who will win his fiftieth cap when he makes his next England appearance, has just been voted the second most popular foreign player in France.

"I've felt that I've played a lot better for England in the past 12 months and, since I went to France, I feel that my game has improved between 10 and 15 per cent," Waddle said in an interview with his home-town newspaper, the *Newcastle Chronicle*.

"I feel I'm a better player than I've ever been, and I'm more of a team player compared with my club days at Newcastle United, when I was naive to say the least. At Newcastle, I used to try things that I should not really have attempted but, because of my naivety, they usually came off."

There are few similarities between Tyneside and the South of France, but Waddle has found that there is little difference between the two sets of supporters. "There are just under a million people in Marseilles. Yet there is only one football team and we are the only side in France who regularly attract gates of over 60,000," he said.

"The people are real football and Marseilles fanatics. They are on the same level as those supporters at Newcastle United and Glasgow Rangers, and I can't pay them a higher compliment than that."

Rangers have a score to settle

Rangers aim to forget about their public humiliation by St Mirren on the opening day of the season tomorrow and focus on making a rapid return to the top of the Premier Division.

The reigning champions, who lost the leadership to Aberdeen on goal difference on Wednesday, need just one point to regain top position – and that last visit of St.Mirren to Ibrox serves as the perfect incentive.

"St Mirren embarrassed us on the opening day," recalled manager, Graeme Souness, who saw his team run up the championship flag on August 12...followed by the white flag of surrender.

Saints went on to win 1-0 and Souness added: "We let our supporters down that day. We just didn't play until Chris Woods was injured. Only then did the players roll up their sleeves and perform in a more acceptable manner."

Rangers, sharing the 24 point mark with Aberdeen going into the second half of the season, have also been rebuked by Souness for their indifferent display against Arsenal in midweek.

He said: "If we play as we did on Tuesday we can come unstuck. However we are also capable of beating anybody on our day. It is a case of making sure that the attitude is right."

Ally McCoist, the Scottish international forward, returns after a bout of flu to add pace and vigour to the Rangers attack while Mark Walters resumes his domestic suspension after replacing McCoist against Arsenal.

Since St Mirren beat Rangers in August, they have managed to collect only 11 more points in their subsequent 16 games. However manager Tony Fitzpatrick is praying for another surprise.

"We will go out and attack Rangers," promised Fitzpatrick. "If you sit back and let them play they can trample all over you." David Winnie takes over from the injured Peter Godfrey in the St Mirren side.

The only other Premier Division fixture sees another meeting of brothers Jim and Tommy McLean. Dundee United, managed by Jim, desperately need points from Tommy's Motherwell team, if they hope to compete with the leading sides in the title race.

United are seven points behind the leaders and McLean has named a squad including teenage forwards Paddy Connolly and John O'Neil, who could be in the final 13 but are unlikely to play.

"It's an important game for us," said the Dundee manager. "We need to start picking up points if we want to make an impression on those teams above us. Unfortunately our forwards have struggled this season while the last four goals we have conceded have all come from our own mistakes."

Motherwell, who started the season so brightly, have not won a match since October 21 when they beat Dundee United 3-2.

Nick Cusack, a forward, could be risked despite a groin injury which hampered his training this season. Colin O'Neill is out through suspension so Tommy McLean includes Gordon Maher, Colin McNair and Jim Griffin.

United have rejected the chance of a friendly with Scotland's World Cup opponents, Costa Rica, next month because of unsuitability of dates. But it is still possible that the club can fit in a game later in the year.

E German transfer is blocked

East Berlin (AP) – East German sports authorities have blocked the transfer of Rainer Ernst from Dynamo Berlin to the West German football club, Borussia Dortmund, saying he was not playing well enough at the moment to deserve the move.

"He is not in very good form right now," Werner Neumann, a member of the East German sports federation (DTSB), said. Ernst had already trained with the West German first division club. His transfer was expected to be concluded this week.

Dynamo's chairman, Herbert Krafft, told the newspaper *Neues Deutschland* that Ernst's recent performances "do not justify a transfer. Dynamo (East) Berlin has a good reputation abroad and the transfer of Ernst, in his present form, would damage this reputation," Krafft told the newspaper.

If Ernst's performances improved in the next six months, the club would reconsider a possible transfer, Krafft promised.

Another Dynamo Berlin star, Andreas Thom, last week became the first East German footballer to transfer legally to West German club when he signed for Bayer Leverkusen.

Krafft also said that Dynamo will probably transform itself into a civilian club by the start of the next season. The club had been sponsored by the Interior Ministry and the country's hated secret police known as Stasi. The secret police has been disbanded.

Sunday sinner banned

The Reading winger Keith Knight has had a second 21-day ban imposed on him after failing to observe a similar suspension earlier this season.

Knight, aged 20, received the original punishment from the Gloucestershire FA for remarks made to a referee while managing the Cheltenham Sunday League side, Shurdington Misfits.

Despite the ban he continued to play for the third division club and scored a goal in Reading's 6-1 win at Swansea in September.

The publicity he gained from that game – and a match the following day in Cheltenham which he abandoned while acting as a stand-in referee – alerted the Gloucestershire FA to the fact that he was not observing the ban. A subsequent hearing at FA headquarters in London reimposed the ban.

Reading, who were unaware of the previous ban, are not able to use Knight anyway because he is suffering from a hamstring injury.

● Falkirk, the Scottish first division club, have turned down a £350,000 takeover bid from the former Celtic and Falkirk player David Cattanach, who has become a property developer. The Falkirk directors say that the bid is "totally unacceptable."

Stoke sign Sandford

Alan Ball, the new Stoke City manager, has negotiated successfully with his former club Portsmouth for the signing of the defender, Lee Sandford, for £140,000, taking his spending for the week to £390,000. Both Sandford, aged 21, and Tony Ellis, the new £250,000 forward, are included in Ball's squad for the Boxing Day game against Newcastle. With Stoke missing Ian Cranson, George Berry and Derek Statham, the new pair are likely to make their debut.

Plymouth Argyle have signed Mark Robson on a month's loan from Tottenham Hotspur. The former Exeter City winger is set to make his debut at Home Park in the Boxing Day match against West Bromwich Albion. He has been signed to fill in while Mark Stuart recovers from a groin operation.

Crystal Palace defender, Rudi Hedman, has joined Leyton Orient, of the third division, on a month's loan with a view to a permanent move.

The 25-year-old Londoner, who moved to Palace from Colchester, could make his debut for Orient at home to Northampton on Tuesday.

Antone Joseph, Telford United's England non-League international, yesterday joined fellow GM Vauxhall Conference side, Kidderminster Harriers, for £17,500.

BOXING

Wilson in a winning return to ring

Tony Wilson, whose previous bout had ended in high farce when his mother climbed into the ring and attacked his opponent, made a successful return to boxing on Thursday night.

The former British light-heavyweight champion, of Wolverhampton, needed no help from his mum to beat Dave Lawrence in Birmingham. Wilson – warming up for a rematch with Steve McCarthy in Reading next month following the bizarre end to their contest three months ago – had too much class for Lawrence, of Norwich, who wisely retired after 25 seconds of the sixth round after being left reeling by a fierce right to his stomach.

Meanwhile, Peter Till has been struck off as the official challenger to Steve Boyle, the British lightweight champion, after being knocked out in the eighth and final round by Tony Richards, of Nottingham, on Thursday night.

Till, of Walsall, looked sluggish in his return to the ring in the super-featherweight contest after an eight-month absence.

Richards took full advantage in the dying minutes, trapping Till on the ropes and unloaded a combination of left and rights to the head, sending the Midlander crashing to the canvas with a deep cut under his left eye. Till failed to beat the count after one minute and 38 seconds of the round.

It was the third time that Till had been beaten by the Nottingham fighter, having been outpointed in Birmingham two years ago, and also when the pair were amateurs.

The inside-the-distance defeat means the dates set for contracts and purse offers for the Boyle contest will no longer apply. The position in the weight division will be subject to further discussion.

FOR THE RECORD

FOOTBALL

ZENITH DATA SYSTEMS CUP: Third round: Ipswich 3, Wimbledon 1 (aet; 1-1 after 90mins).
IRISH LEAGUE: Budweiser Cup: Crusaders 0, Cerrick 0; Glentoran 5, Ballyclare Comrades 1.
BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Westgate insurance Cup: Third round, first leg: Moor Green 2, Gloucester 2.
HFS LOANS LEAGUE CUP: Second round replay: Postponed: Buxton v South Liverpool.
HERTS SENIOR CUP: Barnet 5, Watford 2.
ENGLISH SCHOOLS MITRE UNDER-18 TROPHY: Middlesex 2, Suffolk 0.

HOCKEY

ASIAN CUP: Pool B: China 5, Bangladesh 1; India 6, South Korea 0.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Boston Bruins 4, Minnesota North Stars 2; Pittsburgh Penguins 5, Washington Capitals 2; Edmonton Oilers 3, Winnipeg Jets 2; Los Angeles Kings 6, Quebec Nordiques 1.

BOXING

BIRMINGHAM: Bantamweight (6 rds): Kevin Jenkins (Ampandora) bt Neil Parry (Middlesbrough), pts. Super-featherweight (6 rds): Peter Buckley (Birmingham) bt Wayne Taylor (Birmingham), pts; (8 rds): Tony Richards (Nottingham) bt Peter Till (Walsall), ko 8th. Light heavyweight (8 rds): Tony Wilson (Wolverhampton) bt Dave Lawrence (Norwich), rsc 8th. Light middleweight (6rds): Colin Peters (Birmingham) bt Alan Richards (Cardiff), pts.

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Atlanta Hawks 117, Miami Heat 115; Seattle SuperSonics 123, Portland Trail Blazers 102.

RUGBY LEAGUE

STONES BITTER CHAMPIONSHIP: Widnes 48, Barrow 0.
REGAL TROPHY: Quarter-final replay: Wigan 8, Leeds 0.
SLALOM LAGER ALLIANCE: Keighley 40, Bramley 4.

RUGBY UNION

AYRSHIRE LEAGUE: Ayr 42, Greenock 9.

SQUASH RACKETS

PRIMS PREMIER LEAGUE: Second division south: Patrick Exeter 2, Lingfield (Surrey) 3; Fosters Snipes (London) 5, Glanbran Bromley (Kent) 0; Rackets (Essex) 4, Riverside GBS (Gloucester) 1.

TENNIS

ALFRETON: LTA national seeded: West's quarter-finals: P Robinson bt A Evans, 7-6, 6-2; A Broomhead bt L Davies, 7-5, 6-2; L Matthews bt A Cornwell, 6-1, 6-2.
WORLD JUNIOR RANKINGS: Girls: 1, J Capriati (US); 2, F Labat (Arg); 3, A Sirnadova (Cz); 4, N Kowarski (US); 5, M Anderson (SA); 6, E Sviagerova (Cz); 7, M McGrath (US); 8, F Haumuller (Arg); 9, N Sawamatsu (Japan); 10, R McQuillan (Aus). Boys: 1, N Kulti (Swe); 2, F Sandoro (Fr); 3, T Woodbridge (Aus); 4, J Stark (US); 5, J Palmer (US); 6, W Ferreira (SA); 7, S Pescosolido (It); 8, M Damm (Cz); 9, J Morgan (Aus); 10, A Rahuman (Fin).

BOWLS

Jetlag extra obstacle to world indoor title

By David Rhys Jones

Thirteen of the world's leading bowlers will have little time to recover from their efforts in the Commonwealth Games at Pakuranga, Auckland, before they will be challenging for the £20,000 first prize in the Embassy world indoor singles championship at Preston, Lancashire, which starts on February 20.

Outdoor and indoor bowls, though almost identical in principle, are teasingly different in practice. Apart from jetlag, and climatic adjustment, the competitors will have to come to terms with the difference between the ultra-fast coiula surface in New Zealand and the slower man-made fibre of the portable rink.

Richard Corsie, as reigning champion, is the No. 1 seed, and is pitted against a former Glynneath fly-half, David Wilkins, while Tony Allcock, seeded two, takes on another Welshman, Mike Kent, who has shown promise on his previous appearances.

Scotland's Willie Wood plays Peter Belliss, of New Zealand, who beat him in the 1984 world outdoor final, while, in another fascinating first round tie, Jim Baker, the 1984 world indoor champion, faces the dashing Australian, Ian Schuback.

David Bryant, the UK champion, and Allcock, will open the defence of their world indoor pairs title, played again in tandem with the singles, with a match against Rod Hugh and Walton Jones, of Llanelli.

Embassy World Championships draw: Singles: R Corsie (Scot) v D Wilkins (Wales); A E Thomson (Eng) v M McKeown (Ire); G A Smith (Eng) v C Major (NZ); S Rees (Wales) v N Donaldson (Channel Is); D J Bryant (Eng) v R McCulloch (Scot); J G Baker (Ire) v I Schubeck (Aus); N McGhee (Scot) v R J Brassey (NZ); W W Wood (Scot) v P J Belliss (NZ); D Corkill (Ire) v M McMahon (HK); B Kingdon (Wales) v C Bransky (Isr); J Muir (Scot) v P J Bransfield (Eng); J Price (Wal) v S Davies (Aus); H H Duff (Scot) v A Matthews (Aus); W Richards (Eng) v C Craig (Ire); S Rankin (Scot) v J Yates (Aus); T Allcock (Eng) v M Kent (Wales). Pairs: T Allcock and D J Bryant (Eng) v R Hugh and W B Jones (Wales); J G Baker and M Dunlop (Ire) v B Dunlop and S Espie (Ire); S Rees and J Price (Wales) v C Bransky (Isr) and M McMahon (HK); G A Smith and A E Thomson (Eng) v N Donaldson (Channel Is) and C Major (Aus); I Schubeck and J Yates (Aus) v J Hoskins and C Jenkins (Wales); R Corsie and H H Duff (Scot) v G and A Robertson (Scot); S E Halsall and G A Smyth (Eng) v S Davies and A Matthews (Aus); P J Belliss and R J Brassey (NZ) v M and M Tomlin (Eng).

Hilton's chance

New York (AP) – Matthew Hilton will replace Iran Barkley, who has had an operation for a detached retina, as the challenger to the champion, Doug Dewitt, for the World Boxing Organization middleweight title at Atlantic City on January 15.

THE TIMES First published 1785

Eight race meetings
The full, up-to-date guide to all eight meetings

BOXING DAY SPORT

Winning Women
Simon Barnes launches a series on a decade of change

The fear haunting England's idyll

From Stuart Jones, Football Correspondent, Cagliari

Bobby Robson yesterday examined and approved England's World Cup headquarters in Sardinia to complete his tour of inspection of rivals and facilities. But the fear of hooliganism by England's supporters still casts a shadow over the planning for the three matches to be played here next June.

Robson watched Brazil beat The Netherlands 1-0 and Italy and Argentina draw 0-0 in the previous 48 hours before turning to the requirements of his players at the hotel which will be their adopted home for three weeks.

The hotel visit was more rewarding than the football: the Dutch were so depleted that their defeat by Brazil in Rotterdam on Wednesday cast no genuine light on their progress; and the match between Italy and Argentina in Cagliari on Thursday was such a cynical mess that it was an utter irrelevance. To that extent, Robson's mission was unfulfilling, although he is not alone in now believing that no team will win the World Cup unless it beats the Brazilians.

The seeds of England's challenge are about to be sown. A practice pitch is to be prepared within the grounds of the Is Molas Hotel. It will complete the squad's splendid isolation and self-containment.

Other than to travel the 25 miles to the Sant'Elia Stadium, where they are to play all three of their first-round ties in the World Cup finals, there will be no compelling reason to leave the spacious green acres.

Under normal circumstances, it houses golfers. One enthusiast, Robson himself, tested the 18 holes yesterday, taking with him a booklet which suggests where each of the 72 shots should be directed if the course is to be completed in par figures.

The instructions could be clarified. Those who stand on the third tee 193 metres from the flag, for instance, are advised: "This is a quite long one with a swift and downhill green to be reached flying. Four or five iron." Information concerning Robson's fate there, as elsewhere, must remain confidential.

But he is openly relieved to have found a suitable resting place for his players. The culinary arts there, he claims, are "as good as anywhere you will come across in the world". Other facilities include a large swimming pool and a couple of floodlit tennis courts.

Yet the England party will be left largely to themselves in tranquillity. It is unlikely to be as peaceful in the capital city to the north. In spite of superficial assurances, representatives of the World Cup organizing committee in Cagliari do not seem to be fully aware of the potential problems which could beset them.

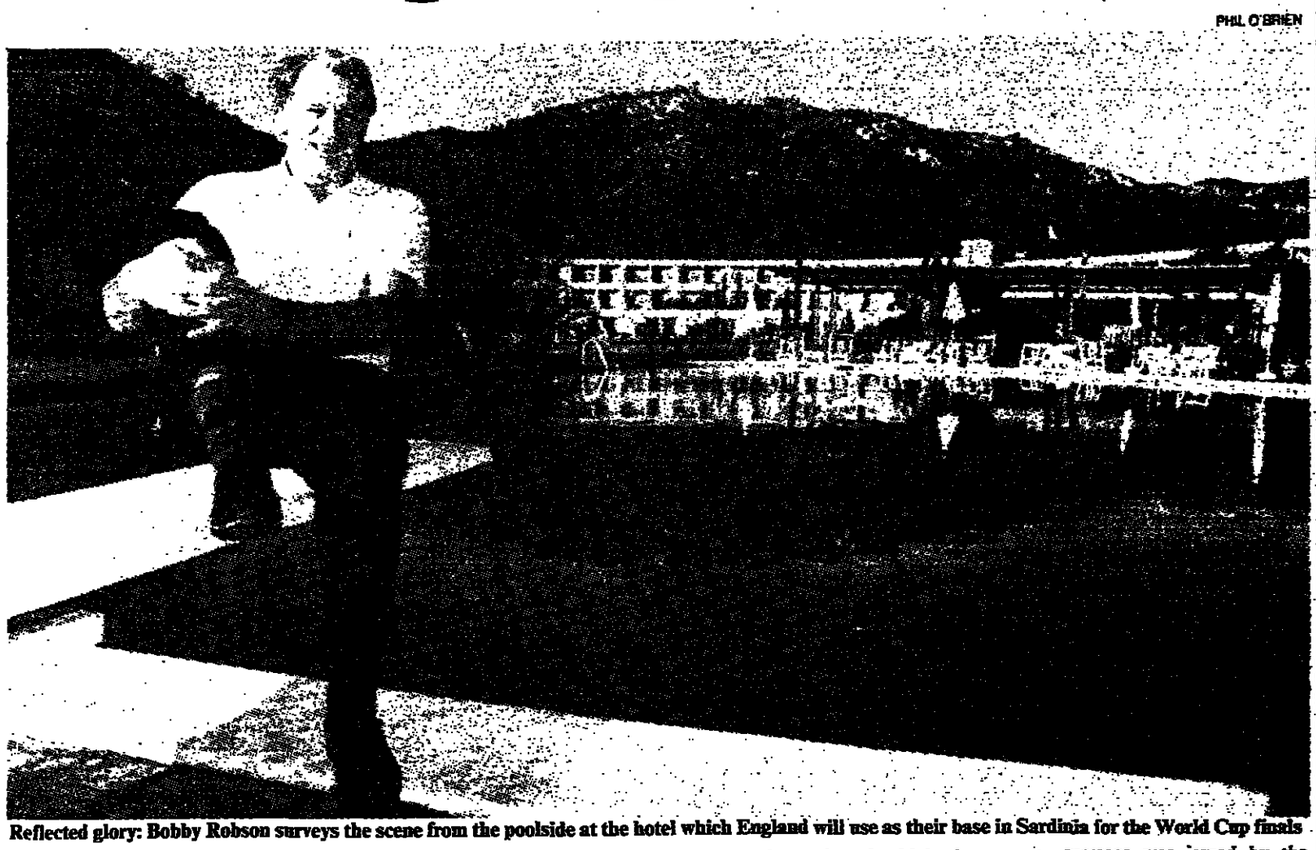
They are not complacent but innocents abroad are not easily convinced about the threat of hooliganism. Why should they be? They are not accustomed to the excesses of thugs determined on violence.

Les Walker, the Football Association's chief security officer, discovered a few alarming loopholes in Sardinia's plans. During his visit this week, he noted that no transport was available late at night.

Since England's matches will not end until 10.45pm, thousands of supporters could be left stranded. The implications for June 16, in particular, when the Netherlands (with their own violent supporters) are the opposition, are shudderingly unmistakable.

Walker and his Dutch counterpart met on Wednesday to discuss such problems and to offer assistance to the organizers. They agreed that, although supporters would not be segregated inside the stadium, the followers of each nation should be kept apart before and after the matches. It is not yet apparent, however, how such a scheme can be efficiently implemented.

There was no crowd trouble in either Rotterdam or Cagliari this week but a chilling message was issued by the Italian supporters towards the end of the fixture against Argentina. "England, we are waiting for you," they chanted. So, one trusts, will be an unbreakable security operation.



PHIL O'BRIEN

Reflected glory: Bobby Robson surveys the scene from the poolside at the hotel which England will use as their base in Sardinia for the World Cup finals

END COLUMN

Jansher is at war with success

By Colin McQuillan

Jansher Khan has reached the top of his profession. At 20 he is squash rackets champion of the world, roaming the globe by first class jet with homes in Pakistan and England and enough invested wealth to regard himself as comfortable for life.

Yet Jansher Khan is a champion at bay. The skinny teenager, who popped unexpectedly out of the backwoods of Peshawar to defeat the mighty Jahangir Khan nine times out of 10 in 1987, is now a beleaguered, expectant father, finished with his longtime coach and mentor, Mohammed Yasim, at odds with his fellow professionals in the International Squash Players Federation and, he believes, wilfully misunderstood by journalists pursuing a good story.

In October Jansher reclaimed the world title he first won from Jahangir in 1987 by defeating Chris Dittmar in Kuala Lumpur. His prizemoney was withheld for several days and eventually he was fined £200 and put on probation by ISPA for failing to attend the championship banquet after the final.

This month he was fined a further £500 and lost all the ranking points earned in reaching the final of the Stuttgart open for "not trying" in the last game when losing for the thirteenth time to Jahangir in 25 meetings.

Ajax sue iron bar thrower

Amsterdam (AFP) — Ajax are suing the supporter, aged 17, who was responsible for the club being banned from the European competition for a year.

Ajax were suspended after the young man threw an iron bar at the Austria Vienna goalkeeper during a UEFA Cup match in September. They are suing him for 500,000 guilders (about £155,000).

"We are not trying to recover any lost earnings, but establish the principle that hooligans must be made accountable," a club spokesman said.

The supporter, identified only as Gerald M., was sentenced to five months in reform school. Arrests for football violence have increased by about 30 per cent in The Netherlands in the past year.

Ferguson finds a new ally

By Ian Ross

Alex Ferguson's claim that he is patiently building a team at Manchester United capable of eclipsing the Liverpool side United face at Anfield today won support from an unexpected source yesterday.

Howard Kendall, the manager of neighbouring Manchester City, urged a largely disenchanted Old Trafford public to adopt a more tolerant attitude towards their manager — whose position at the club could be placed in jeopardy when Martin Edwards, the club chairman, sells his majority shareholding at the end of the season.

"I know the pressure Alex is under because a similar thing happened to me in my early days at Everton," Kendall said. "Every time Manchester United get a bad result, the fans call for him to be sacked. In situations like that you try to keep a smile on your face but it gets to you and that makes it harder.

"I know that patience is a word football fans do not like to hear but that is what the United supporters need. I am sure he will get it right given time. All he needs are a few decent results and the clamour for his sacking will disappear."

Since taking over at Old Trafford three years ago, Ferguson has spent £13 million on new players and yet United lie thirteenth in the first division, 15 points adrift of Arsenal, the League leaders.

However, the manager is not short of support. Bryan Robson, the club and England captain, speaking on Granada Television's *Kick-Off* programme, said: "The boss has done a good job and has turned the club around. It annoys me that people keep saying he will be sacked unless results improve. He has 100 per cent support of the board and of his players."

Even Kenny Dalglish, the Liverpool manager, whose relationship with Ferguson has often been strained over the past two years, said he could understand the unsettling effects of the recent boardroom disquiet at Old Trafford. "The troubles they have are something which the players cannot control. The only thing which is certain is that it cannot help anyone. Obviously the fewer distractions someone has, the better it is."

After two consecutive home defeats, United need a good performance today in the League's solitary fixture. Surprisingly, perhaps, the omens are good. Liverpool have won only two of the last 18 games between the clubs and United have been beaten only once on their last nine visits to Anfield.

"We could do with a break and I think we deserve one. We have had some good results against Liverpool in the recent past and we can get another one if we go about the job in the right manner," Ferguson said.

Although he has delayed announcing his starting line-up, Ferguson will persist with the forward partnership of Hughes and McClair, despite a disappointing joint return of only 12 goals this season.

Viv Anderson, the former England defender, is likely to return at right back, which will allow Ince to move forward into his preferred midfield position.

Barnes is likely to return for Liverpool after missing the 5-2 victory at Chelsea last week because of a hamstring injury.

"I anticipate a hard game for both sides. The desire to win when our two clubs meet is the same as in Merseyside derby matches," Dalglish said.

Wednesday take Carr in loan deal

Sheffield Wednesday and Nottingham Forest have agreed on a deal that takes the former England Under-21 right winger, Franz Carr, on loan to Hillsborough for three months. The Wednesday manager, Ron Atkinson, said: "We are pleased because we have another quality player. Franz has great pace and is a natural winger."

Carr, aged 23, could make his debut at Liverpool on Boxing Day in place of Dave Bennett who is doubtful with a hamstring strain. Atkinson said that a full transfer was something that would have to be considered in the future and no fee had yet been agreed.

Greg Downs, Coventry City's left back, has come off the transfer list at his own request.

Mick Gooding, the midfield player, aged 30, has joined Reading from Wolverhampton Wanderers for £65,000.

The Birmingham City goalkeeper, Roger Hansbury, is to join Cardiff City for £20,000. Hansbury, aged 34, has already spent two months on loan with Cardiff this season and in nine games the Welsh club were only beaten once.

The Football League's bottom club, Hartlepool, will include their two new signings from Scarborough, Ian Bennyworth and Paul Olsson, in a friendly against Newcastle today. The pair, who cost £15,000 each, will ironically make their league debuts for Hartlepool at Scarborough on Boxing Day.

The Sunderland midfield player, John Cornforth, has turned down a £75,000 move to Shrewsbury on failing to agree personal terms after completing a month's loan at the third division club.

Can't take the money and run

The double ISPA action came after a series of lesser complaints from the preceding Asian tour. "Jansher has to understand he cannot just take the money and run," Jamie Hickox, the ISPA chairman, said after being forced to apologise for the world champion's absence in Kuala Lumpur. "We are building an international sporting circuit here and we cannot afford to alienate the people who pay for and organize our events."

Jansher admits he was in the wrong in Kuala Lumpur, although he insists there are two sides to the story of his not eating dinner there. He is mystified over the Stuttgart business, however, and his manager, Greg Hutchings, is talking with ISPA with a view to appealing at least the deduction of ranking points.

"My view is that Jansher has been hung on press reports from Stuttgart which were built around his use of the word 'bored' after the final. This is a word he often uses to describe his exhaustion on court."

The world champion believes he has suffered from being too honest with apparently friendly journalists.

"I don't completely understand the fuss," he says. "I have never been in trouble on court. I play to the rules and I respect the referees. There are many players whose court behaviour is far more worthy of fines and points deduction."

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Snooker is almost out of pocket

By John Goodbody

Snooker, the most popular television sport of the 1980s, will enter the new decade with its latest accounts showing it has only £93 cash-in-hand at the bank.

The World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association (WPBSA) will also tell its 171 members at the annual meeting in Bristol next Friday that it lost £553,408 in the year up to June 30, 1989, compared to a pre-tax profit of £429,553 the previous year. Administrative expenses have also leapt from £710,111 to £1,177,336.

However, Martyn Blake, the secretary of the WPBSA, said yesterday that the finances "were exactly in line with what the Association is planning. Propects are brighter than ever."

Because the Association is limited by guarantee it cannot pay dividends. Instead the members are benefiting from the huge increase in prize money, which went from £2,592,491 to £3,394,400, a rise of more than £800,000 over the year.

Blake explained that the administrative costs had risen because of the setting up of two new tournaments, played in 1988-89, as well as three further competitions in the next season. He said it was the policy of the WPBSA to invest its money in establishing new events. "Instead of making a surplus we want revenue for our members. We are different from a normal trading company."

In an official statement John Virgo, the chairman of the WPBSA, said: "A deficit after tax conceals the underlying financial strength of the association and future income prospects."

Gower tempted by Hampshire

By Alan Lee
Cricket Correspondent

David Gower, whose life has performed a spectacular somersault in the course of the past few months, will spend Christmas considering an official approach from Hampshire.

The deposed England captain has discounted the attentions of all other interested clubs, including Somerset and Kent, as he ponders his future.

If, as seems likely, he leaves his only previous county, Leicestershire, he will move to the south coast to play under his long-time friend, Mark Nicholas.

Gower returned in midweek from a working holiday in Africa, where he fulfilled a number of speaking engagements in addition to indulging his interest in wildlife. Before leaving for his two-week trip he had discussed his position with Leicestershire's chief executive, Mike Turner, although no firm commitments had been given.

Up to last night Turner was unaware that anything had altered. He said: "David's decision has yet to be made. He has certain things to sort out and, although I can confirm that Hampshire have gone through the correct procedure to approach him, it has not yet gone further than that."

Gower and Nicholas were together socially in London on Thursday night but the Hampshire captain confirmed yesterday that official talks have not taken place. "I really don't know if he will be playing for us next season, although it goes without saying we would welcome him," he said.

The capture of Gower would make Hampshire a formidable batting unit and this is potentially the most glamorous cricketing transfer since Worcestershire signed Ian Botham and Graham Dilley three years ago. As in both these cases, however, the circumstances are tinged with sadness.

Gower has been uncertain about his future in the game since the summer ended with his dismissal as England captain and his rejection from the tour party for the West Indies.

Since then, he has resigned the Leicestershire captaincy and undergone a serious operation on his troublesome shoulder.

Rumours that the injury could end his career were always exaggerated. Gower is intent on regaining his place in the England team and, with his cricket life in Leicester under a cloud, he may decide, early next month, that a fresh start with Hampshire gives him his best chance.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Koreans in agreement

Panmunjom (AP) — North and South Korea yesterday agreed the leadership of a joint team for the Asian Games in Peking next year, potentially removing the last block in talks towards sporting unity.

In the sixth round of talks, North Korea accepted all the remaining South Korean preconditions, including the appointment of a single leader. If talks succeed, the countries will form their first combined team for an international sports event since their division in 1945.

No expense

The International Student Sport Federation (FISU) is to sue the São Paolo organizing committee, which pulled out of staging the 1989 World Student Games, for US$300,000 (£193,000) to cover expenses. A limited programme was held in West Germany instead.

Lewis: seeking millions

Drug damages

Toronto (Reuter) — Carl Lewis, the champion Olympic athlete, is suing $182 million (£118 million) in libel damages against *Stern*, the West German magazine, and Darrell Robinson, a former teammate, over allegations that he used growth hormones and sold them to fellow athletes.

Run of the mill

The Scottish Sports Aid Foundation has been given £6,000 from The Edinburgh Woollen Mill to be used as 200 awards for potential international athletes.

Move against

The British International Sports Committee, which comprises representatives from Britain's three main sporting bodies — the Sports Council, the British Olympic Association and the Central Council for Physical Recreation — has urged competitors and governing bodies in the United Kingdom to oppose sporting links with South Africa.

East exchange

East Berlin (AP) — East Germany has created an agency to deal with the exchange and marketing of football players, cyclists and other competitors with Western nations, according to a member of the East German Sports Federation's secretariat.

Greenidge is aiming to face England

Canberra (Reuter) — The West Indies opening batsman, Gordon Greenidge, has cut short a stint in Australian club cricket to return home to make himself available for the Test series against England.

Greenidge's commitments in Australia put his Test place in jeopardy when the West Indies Board of Control stipulated that all players had to take part in the domestic competition to be eligible for selection.

Greenidge will leave Australia on December 29 and will arrive in time for Barbados's opening Red Stripe Cup match against the Leeward Islands on January 5.

The former Hampshire batsman has played in 96 Tests and now looks certain to become the third West Indian, following Clive Lloyd and Viv Richards, to appear in 100 during the five-Test series against England.

Champion who is alone on a peak

Instant unguarded reaction to familiar personalities is understandable. Jansher is a man unusually alone at the peak.

The older brother he loves and respects, Mohibullah Khan is enjoying home life in Pakistan after several years in prison on drugs charges. Hutchings, the manager he trusts, is now based in Australia. Yasim, the coach with whom he lived and worked from the start, is officially dismissed. Only his Malaysian girlfriend Roxanne remains a constant presence.

"How many 18-year-olds could survive transplantation from rural culture to jet-set, a high degree of hatred from some at home for daring to defeat Jahangir, the virtual reincarnation of a revered elder brother, a wonderful romance with a baby on the way, a worrying squabble over his professional management and the misplaced antipathy of his colleagues, and still come through to win back the world title at 20?" Hutchings asks.

"It has been a heavy load for him these last few months on his own. He could have used a bit of help from colleagues rather than a heavy disciplinary hand."